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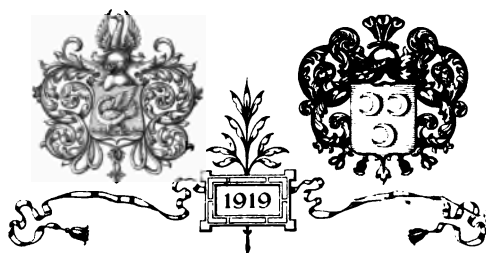
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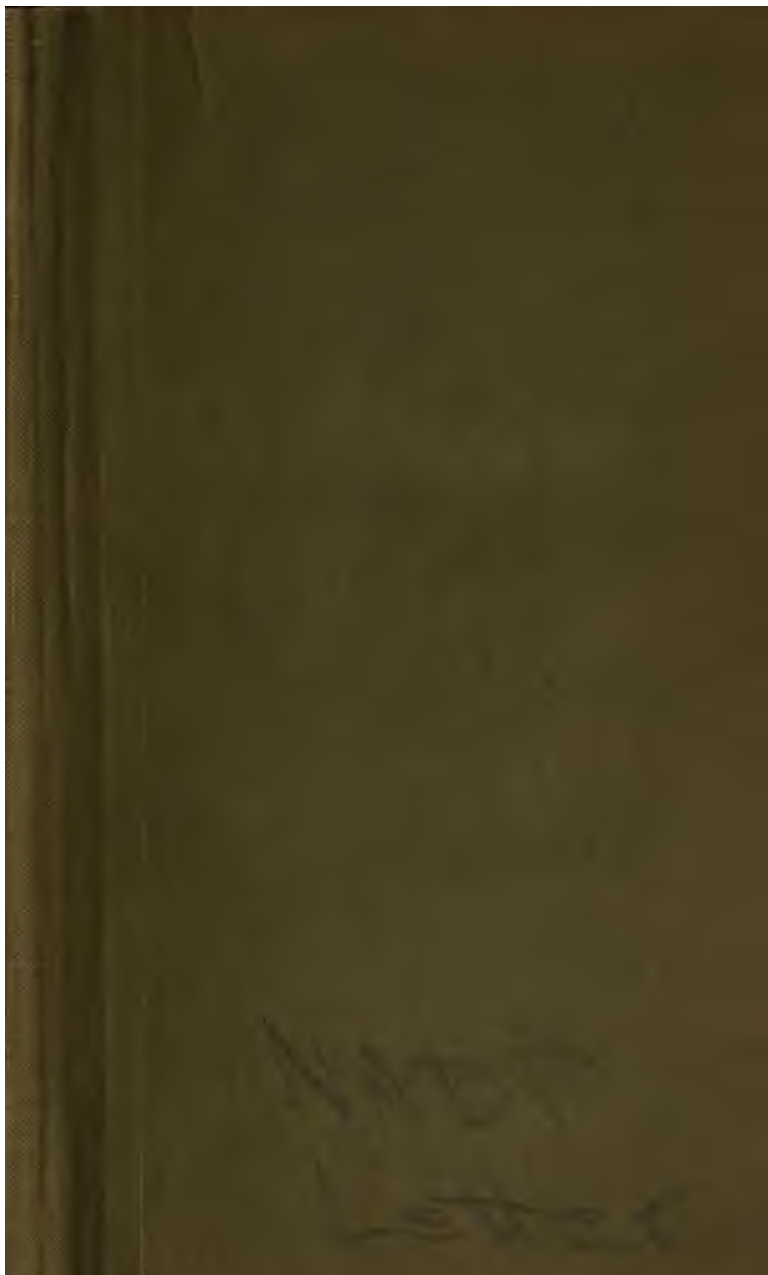
under the terms of the last will and testament of

CATHERINE GANSEVOORT LANSING

*granddaughter of
General Peter Gansevoort, junior*

and widow of the

*Honorable Abraham Lansing
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THE

LETTER WRITER:

CONTAINING

A GREAT VARIETY OF LETTERS

ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

RELATIONSHIP—BUSINESS—LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND
MARRIAGE—FRIENDSHIP, AND MISCELLA-
NEOUS LETTERS: .

SELECTED FROM JUDICIOUS AND EMINENT WRITERS.

The art of writing well consists in putting proper words in proper places.

Dean Swift.

CHARLESTOWN—G. DAVIDSON.

1827.

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INTRODUCTION.

THE art of Letter Writing consists in a proper expression of those ideas, on paper, which we should convey by conversation to a person were he present ; hence it follows that the more natural a letter is written the better it is. This remark applies particularly to those which are written to friends and relations upon ordinary topics, where no great degree of accuracy is requisite. But letters on business, or other subjects of importance should never be penned in a hurry, and ought to be carefully revised, in order to prevent those disagreeable consequences which frequently arise from writing carelessly or in a passion.

In the following selection of letters, the publisher has endeavored to combine those adapted to every capacity ; it is a mistaken notion to suppose that a child shows great talents by being able to write a stiff, formal letter to his parents, however

good it may be in itself; it is altogether unnatural, and whatever is unnatural is disgusting. We expect a child to write like one, and it makes him appear just as ridiculous to attempt any other style as it would to put on one of his father's coats.

Agreeably to this opinion we have commenced with Letters which children might be supposed, and which would be consistent for them to write, and have followed them by others in that degree in which we may suppose the mind arrives at maturity; among the latter are some finished epistles by a number of eminent men.

It must appear evident that the style of Letters should always be in accordance with the condition of the person written to, and with the subject written upon. For instance, to write to a parent in the same manner that we would to a common acquaintance, or to address a person in distress in a strain of levity, is not only highly improper, but in the latter case, is an insult.

In letters on business, people should endeavor to express their sentiments in as clear and concise a manner as possible, because persons in business have not time to read long letters, and besides, too many words are apt to bewilder instead of informing. Many mistakes of importance occur from their ambiguity of expression; and yet, perhaps, he that uses it is endeavoring to render his meaning doubly plain by explanations.

No precise rules for epistolary writing can be given to any advantage. The most prominent are these:

Think what you wish to say, and put it on paper in the words that most readily occur to your mind, always endeavoring "to use proper words in proper places."

In answering a letter, always attend to any questions or inquiries for information, which may have been addressed to you by your correspondent, before you proceed with your own thoughts and information.

In all letters strive to make your meaning apparent in as small a compass, as possible; people frequently occupy a page with that which might be comprised in six lines.

Avoid the introduction of too many quotations from other authors, particularly those in a foreign language; it is a ridiculous affectation to write a Latin or French phrase when an English one would do just as well; it is as bad as talking in the technical language in one's business to a person who knows nothing about it.

Never use hard words unnecessarily; nor particular words or phrases too often: use as few parentheses as possible, it is a clumsy way of disposing of a sentence, and often embarrasses the reader.

Correct spelling and good grammar are so essential to fine writing, that the absence of them destroys the force of the best sentiments.

Nothing is more generally admired than handsome penmanship; and although some physicians, lawyers and others may endeavor to excuse their bad writing by calling it unfashionable to write well and legible, depend upon it that it is an absurd and unreasonable practice.

If you write to a stranger, sign your name fairly and in full; and direct your letter, if it goes by mail, with precision as to state, county and town.

THE
UNIVERSAL LETTER WRITER.

PART I.
ON RELATIONSHIP.

LETTER 1.

From a young lad at a boarding-school in the country to his
brother, an apprentice in New-York.

DEAR CHARLES,

Little master Billy Thompson is going to New-York tomorrow in the stage, and I have sent this by him to you. We are all well at school, and I have got as far as Ovid; I have likewise got through the rules of practice, of which I shall give you a better account when I come to town on the fourth of July. Dear brother, give my duty to my papa and mamma, and tell them I long to see them; I pray for them and you every day; and I have read over the Complete Duty of Man, which my mamma gave me. I spend an hour every day in reading Dr. Goldsmith's Roman History. Pray Charles, send me some books, for I am very fond of reading; and a

neat red pocket book, and I shall do more for you when I leave school.

I am your loving brother.

LETTER 2.

The Brother's answer.

DEAR BROTHER,

I received your kind letter, and am glad to hear you are well, as also of the progress you make in learning. I read your letter to your papa and mamma, and they are much pleased with it. Bill Thompson dines at our house tomorrow, and he will bring you this. Your father has sent you three dollars; and as you are so fond of books, I have sent you Rollin's Belles Lettres. Mr. Austin, our priest, says, that although all sorts of history are useful, yet he thinks you should begin with that of your own country; and he has sent you a present of Gordon's History of America. I have sent you the pocket book, and some other things, which you will find sealed up in the parcel. We all beg that you will continue to persevere as you have begun, in an uniform course of virtue.

I am, dear brother, yours affectionately.

LETTER 3.

From a young Miss to her Parents.

I HOPE that my dear papa and mamma will excuse the badness of the writing of this letter, when they shall be pleased to recollect, that this is my first attempt since I

have learned to join my letters together. I have long been anxious to have the pleasure of being able to write to you, and beg you will be pleased to accept this my first humble offering. As my constant study ever has been, so shall it continue to be, to convince you how much I am, my dearest parents,

Your most affectionate and dutiful daughter.

LETTER 4.

From the same to her Parents on another occasion.

My dear papa and mamma will be pleased to accept of my most respectful compliments on the close of the old and commencement of the new year. As it has pleased God to give you good health during the course of the last year, I beseech him to grant you the same to the end of the present, and many more. This is a happiness your family have most earnestly to wish for, and in particular

Your most humble and dutiful daughter.

LETTER 5.

From a young Miss to her Brother in the country.

DEAR WILLIAM,

You seem to make good the old proverb, "Out of sight, out of mind." It is now two months, since I received a letter from you, and you appear to forget that we little maids do not like to be treated with neglect. You must not pretend to tell me that however fond you may be of your books, you could not find leisure to write me

in all this time. They tell me that you spend a great part of your leisure time with a little miss of about eight years of age, with whom you are very fond of reading and conversing. Take care, if I find she is withdrawing your affection from me, that I do not come down, and pull her cap for her. As for yourself, if you were within the reach of my little tongue, I would give you such a peal as should make you remember it for some time to come. However, if you will write to me soon, I may possibly forgive all that is past, and still consider myself as

Your most affectionate sister.

LETTER 6.

Answer to the preceding.

DEAR SISTER,

I am very sorry, that I have given you so much reason to complain of my neglect of writing to you ; but be assured, that my affections for you are the same they ever were. I readily confess, that the young lady you complain of, has in some measure been the cause of it. She is as fond of reading as I am, and I believe loves you on my account ; is it then possible my sister can be displeased with one so amiable. I did not tell her what you threatened her with : but I am sure, were you to come here on that errand, instead of pulling her cap, you would embrace and love her. As to what you say respecting your little tongue, I promise you I do not wish to come within reach of the sound of it, when anger sets it in motion. As this is the only thing which can render my sister less agreeable, I shall be very cautious to avoid set-

ting. the little alarum in motion, especially when I shall pay you a visit. I have bought you a most brilliant doll, which I shall bring up with me when I come to Hudson.

Your most affectionate brother.

LETTER 7.

From a Brother to a Sister in the country, upbraiding her for being negligent in writing.

MY DEAR SISTER,

I write to you to acquaint you how unkindly we all take it here, that you do not write oftener to us, in relation to your health, diversion, and employments in the country. You cannot be insensible how much you are beloved by us all ; judge then if you do well to omit giving us the satisfaction absence affords to true friends, which is, often to hear from one another. My mother is highly displeased with you, and says you are a very idle girl ; my aunt is of the same opinion, and I would fain, like a loving brother, excuse you if I could. Pray, for the future take care to deserve a better character, and by writing soon, and often, put it in my power to say what a good sister I have : for you shall always find me,

Your most affectionate brother.

LETTER 8.

From the Daughter to the Mother, in excuse for her neglect.

HONORED MADAM,

I am ashamed I stayed to be reminded of my duty by my brother's kind letter. I will offer no excuse for

myself for not writing oftener, though I have been strangely taken up by the kindness and favor of your good friends here, particularly my aunt Windus : for well do I know that my duty to my honored mother ought to take place of all other considerations. All I beg therefore is, that you will be so good as to forgive me, on promise of amendment, and to procure forgiveness also of my aunt Rutledge and all friends. Believe me madam, when I say that no diversions here or elsewhere shall make me forget the duty I owe to so good a mother, and such kind relations ; and that I shall ever be

Your gratefully dutiful daughter.

P. S. My aunt and cousins desire their kind love to you, and due respects to all friends.

LETTER 9.

From a Father to his Son at school.

MY DEAR CHILD,

I could not give a more convincing proof of my affection for you, than in submitting to send you to so great a distance from me. I preferred your advantage to my own pleasure, and sacrificed fondness to duty. I should have done this sooner, but I waited till my inquiries had found out a person whose character might be responsible for your education ; and Mr. Browne was at length my choice for that important trust. Your obedience, therefore, must be without murmuring or reluctance ; especially when you reflect that a strict attention to his appointments, and an implicit compliance with his commands, are not only to form the rule of your safe con-

duct in this life, but to be preparatory to your happiness in the next. With regard to your school connexions, it is impossible for me to give you any instructions at present. All that I shall now say to you on this subject is, quarrel with no one, avoid meddling with the disputes of others, unless with a view to promote an accommodation; and though I would wish you to support the dignity of a youth, be neither mean nor arrogant. I have nothing more now to add, than to pray God to give you grace and abilities, and that your own endeavors may second the views of

An affectionate father.

LETTER 10.

From a Youth at school to his Father.

HONORED SIR,

I am infinitely obliged to you, for the many favors you have bestowed upon me ; all I hope is, that the progress I make in my learning will be considered as some proof how sensible I am of your kindness. Gratitude, duty, and a view to my own future advantage, equally contribute to make me, thoroughly sensible how much I ought to labor for my own improvement, and your satisfaction. I have received the books you sent for my amusement. The Princes of Persia I have almost finished, after which I shall peruse Mrs. Chapone's Letters on the Improvement of the Mind. The liberal allowance of money you have been pleased to make me, shall be applied in the best manner I am able. I am sure my dear father will not censure me should I devote a part of it to-

wards the relief of the wretched and unfortunate. Pray give my most dutiful respects to my mother, my kindest love to my brothers and sisters, and believe me, dear sir,

Your most dutiful,

and affectionate son.

LETTER 11.

From an elder to a younger Brother at school.

DEAR BROTHER,

As you are now gone from home, and placed in a very capital seminary of learning, I thought it not amiss to put you in mind, that childish amusements should be laid aside, and, instead of them, more serious thoughts imbibed, and things of more consequence made the objects of your attention ; whereby we may add to the reputation of our family, and gain to ourselves the good esteem of being virtuous and diligent. You may judge, in some measure, of the value of a good education, from the unavailing lamentations you daily hear those make, who have foolishly shrunk from the difficulties attending the various branches of scholastic education. What a difference there is between an aged man of learning and one who totally neglected his education in his youth ! The former, in the evening of his life, finds a perpetual source of amusement in the knowledge he acquired in his early days, and his company is admired and sought by all those who wish to derive understanding from the knowledge of others, improved by a long life and philosophical experience ; but the ignorant old man is no company for himself, nor any one else, unless over a

pitcher or a bottle, when the assistance of a pipe will be necessary to excuse his silence. I know you have too much good nature to be offended at my advice, especially when I assure you, that I as sincerely wish your happiness and advancement in life as I do my own. We are all very well, thank God, and your friends desire to be remembered to you. Pray write as often as opportunity and leisure will permit; and be assured, that a letter from you will always give great satisfaction to your parents, and to

Your affectionate brother.

LETTER 12.

From an Apprentice to his Father in praise of his Master and family.

HONORED SIR,

I know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business; and my master seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and hope I shall answer in time, your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shown to me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress' part as my master's, that every servant knows his duty and does it with pleasure. So much evenness, sedateness and regularity is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful, sweet tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children, af-

ter such examples behave to us all, like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does; and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress: and then by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are; and as you, sir, and my dear mother have always been. If any thing can make me still happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity, it will be the continuance of yours and my good mother's prayers, for, honored sir and madam,

Your ever dutiful son.

LETTER 13.

From a Young Man to his Mother during his Apprenticeship.

HONORED MOTHER,

Your having retired to the country, has hindered me from writing to you as often as I could wish. Ever since I was bound to Mr. Anson, he has treated me with every indulgence, and I have endeavored to acquire the good will of all our customers. I know that you are so straitened in your own circumstances, as not to be able to afford me pocket money; but I have the pleasure to tell you that Mrs. Howard has taken care, in that particular, and generously supplied me from time to time. In every part of my conduct I shall endeavor to act consistently with the principles of virtue, and am, with the utmost respect and duty,

Your affectionate son.

LETTER 14.

From a Young Lady, to her Mother.

HONORED MOTHER,

In my last I informed you that my worthy benefactress, Mrs. Walton, had been extremely ill; I have the pleasure to assure you that she is now perfectly recovered. The happiness of my present situation may be conceived, but it is not in my power to describe it. After we get up in the morning, the family is called together, to render thanks to the Almighty for his preserving them during the preceding night, and to implore his protection the remaining part of the day; afterwârd we retire to breakfast. During the forenoon, we young ones walk into the garden, or the fields, whilst the good lady is employed in dispensing medicines to her poor tenants. At one o'clock we dine, and afterwards retire to the summer house, when each in her turn, reads some part of the best English writers, whilst the others are employed in needle work. I have received a letter from my brother, and am glad to hear he is settled in so good a family. I am, honored madam,

Your affectionate and dutiful daughter.

LETTER 15.

From a Young Man to his Father, desiring him to intercede with his Master to take him again into his service.

HONORED SIR,

- With shame, arising from the consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I

doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far, as not only to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters, but to run into the commission of those vices that might have proved fatal to me ; it was the allurements of vicious company that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty, in a family where I was treated with the greatest tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power ; but know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. Let me beg of you, sir, to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my whole future-life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

Your affectionate though undutiful son.

LETTER 16.

The Father's answer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

If ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude, a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you have deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes ; but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am obliged to act as your friend, although I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy. I have written to your master and have just received his answer, a copy of which I enclose. Your master is willing again to receive you

into his service, and I hope that your behaviour will be correspondent to so much lenity.

I am your affectionate father.

LETTER 17.

The Father's letter to the Master.

MY WORTHY FRIEND,

I have often written to you with pleasure, but alas ! I am constrained at present to address myself to you on a subject I little expected. I have recently received a letter from my son, by which I am informed that he has left your service through the instigation of evil company : his letter contains a penitential acknowledgement of his offence, together with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently for the future. He has begged me to intercede with you in his behalf, and I know your humanity will excuse paternal affection. If you will again receive the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promises ; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 18.

The Master's Answer.

SIR,

Ever since I first considered the state of human nature, or the difference between right and wrong, I have always preferred mercy to the severity of justice. How-

ever reasonable your request may be to yourself, yet to me it was really unnecessary. I am a father, sir, and can feel, at least, part of what you suffer. My resentment against the young man is less than my anxiety for his happiness; and were I sure of his adhering to an uninterrupted course of virtue, I should have more real pleasure than his acquiring me the wealth of a nabob.

In the mean time, that nothing may be wanting on my part, to make both him and you as happy as possible, all faults are from this moment forgotten; my house is open for his reception; and, if he will return, he shall be treated with the same indulgence as if he had never committed any fault whatever.

I am your affectionate friend.

LETTER 19.

From a Mother in town, to a Daughter at school in the country,
recommending the practice of Virtue.

DEAR CHILD,

Although we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts: and it is my continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being, whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open; but I have been somewhat alarmed because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as formerly. What, my dear, is the reason? Does virtue appear unpleasant to you? Is your beneficent Creator a hard task master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of a gay, unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear, I am a mother, and my concern for your happiness is inseparably con-

nected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and what I have considered as a fault, may be only the effusions of youthful gaiety. I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad, yea, happy to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and, therefore, give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty the performance of which alone can make you happy both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is a dedication of the whole soul to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth, which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct; its consequences are equally beneficial as its promises: "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

Whilst the gay, unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy shall I be to hear, that my child was religious, without hypocritical austerity, and even gay with innocence. Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day, in perusing your Bible, and some of our best English writers; and do not imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented; no, it indulges you in all rational amusements, not inconsistent with morality: it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

I beg that you will consider attentively what I have written, and write to me as soon as possible.

Your anxious mother.

LETTER 20.

The Answer.

HONORED MOTHER,

I am so much affected by the perusal of your kind parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer; but duty to the best of parents obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity, so conspicuous in my former letters, is too true to be denied; nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, madam, I freely confess it, but, with great sincerity, I must at the same time declare, that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed; I am fully sensible of my error, and, on all future occasions shall endeavor to avoid giving the least offence. The advice you sent me in your valuable letter, needs no encomium; all that I desire, is, to have it engraven on my heart. My dear madam, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties, in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me beg to hear from you often, and I hope that my whole future conduct will convince the best of parents that I am what she wishes me to be.

Your affectionate and dutiful daughter.

LETTER 21.

From an Officer in the navy to his Son at school.

DEAR WILLIAM,

Our frigate is now lying in the harbor of New-York, and we are ordered to sail immediately for the Me-

diterranean. I thought to have called on you at school, but our orders to sail were so sudden, that I had no time to spare from the necessary duties of my station. Let me beg, my dear, that you will attend with the utmost assiduity to your studies.

Youth is the proper time for acquiring knowledge, which, if properly improved, and reduced to practice, will be of the utmost service to you in your future life; you are yet unacquainted with the world, and happy will it be for you, if you remain ignorant of the evils and dangers of a seafaring life. Let me therefore intreat you, in the most earnest manner, to think of some employment which will procure you a decent subsistence, and enable you to live independently in the world. I have left an order with our agent to pay for your education; and although my pay is small, yet nothing on my part shall be wanting to make your situation as easy as possible. As it will be some days before we sail, I shall expect to have a letter from you, and if too late, it will be sent after me. In the mean time,

I am your affectionate father.

LETTER 22.

The Son's Answer.

HONORED SIR,

It was one of the first lessons you taught me, that gratitude is the noblest principle that can actuate the heart of man; but what must it be when connected with filial duty incumbent on a son to the most indulgent parent! I am left in a situation that may be felt but not described. That my fond and worthy parent should be so precipi-

tately hurried away to a distant country, almost overpowers me; especially when I consider that I may never have an opportunity of seeing you any more. I am convinced that your friendly advice to me is such, that if strictly followed, must be attended with the most beneficial consequences to myself; my honor and happiness will equally depend on adhering to it, and I shall always consider it as my second greatest duty, to obey the precepts of my worthy father.

I have got so far in my studies as to be able to read Xenophon, and next week I enter upon Homer. I have some thoughts, if agreeable to you, to take lodgings, in order to study the law; my inclinations run that way, but I submit it wholly to your approbation. Pray let me hear from you as often as possible, as it will be the greatest pleasure that you can afford

Your affectionate and dutiful son.

LETTER 23.

From a Young Gentleman, clerk to a merchant in town, to his father in the country, soliciting pocket money.

HONORED SIR,

I wrote to you by Mr. Bale, the dry goods trader, but not having received any answer, I am disappointed. Although I have been as good an economist as possible, yet I find the pocket money you allowed me to take from Mr. Willis, monthly, is not sufficient to support my necessary expenses, although it was so at first. New-York is such a place, that unless one maintains something of a character, they are sure to be treated with contempt, and pointed at as objects of ridicule. I assure you, sir, that

I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can desire, and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you, that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit it to your judgment what you think proper to order me. I did not choose to mention my want of money to Mr. Willis, and for that reason, have not taken any thing more than you ordered ; I hope you will not be offended with what I have written ; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favor of my honored parents.

I am, honored sir, your affectionate son.

LETTER 24.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

My reason for not sending to you sooner was, that I had been on a journey to your uncle at Philadelphia, where I was detained longer than I expected, and consequently, did not see your letter till last night. I have considered your request, and am convinced that it is altogether reasonable : you are greatly mistaken if you think that I wanted to confine you to the small matter paid by Mr. Willis—no ; it was indeed inadvertency ; but my constant residence in the country renders me little acquainted with the customs of New-York. I do not desire to confine you to any particular sum ; you are now arrived at an age when it becomes absolutely necessary for you to be well acquainted with the value of money,

your profession likewise requires it ; and it is well known that prudence and sobriety in youth, naturally lead to regularity of conduct in more advanced life. Virtue insures respect, and, as I well know that all manner of precepts are useless where the inclinations are vicious, I have left the affair mentioned in your letter entirely to your own discretion; and as the enclosed order is unlimited, I hope prudence will direct you how to proceed.

Your affectionate father.

LETTER 25.

From a young Tradesman, lately entered into business, to his father, asking his consent to marry.

HONORED SIR,

You know that it is now above a year since I entered into business for myself, and finding it daily increasing, I am inclined to look out for an agreeable partner—I mean a wife. There is a very worthy family in this neighborhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted. They are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, an amiable young woman, greatly esteemed by all who know her ; I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained the parents' consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent ; but I hope that upon the strictest inquiry you will find her such a person as you will approve. I, on every occasion, endeavor to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct. The parents are to pay me one thousand dollars on the day of mar-

riage, if the event should happen to take place; and as they have no other children, the whole of their property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer in the mean time is anxiously expected

By your dutiful son.

LETTER 26.

The Father's Answer.

MY DEAR SON,

I received your letter, and my reason for not sending you an answer sooner, is, that it being an affair of great importance, I was willing to proceed therein with the utmost caution. I wrote to Mr. Johnson, my attorney in New-York, desiring him to inquire concerning the family you desire to be allied with; and I am glad to hear that his account does not differ from your own. I hope you do not think that I would desire to see you one moment unhappy. Your wish to enter the marriage state is natural and meets my approbation, and I am glad to hear that the person on whom you have placed your affection is so worthy. When you have fixed the wedding-day I will come to New-York to be present at the ceremony, and spend a few days with my old friends. I hope you will continue to attend to your business with the same diligence you have hitherto done; and if you should live to an old age, you will then be able to retire from business with honor both to yourself and family.

I am your affectionate father.

LETTER 27.

From a Young Woman just gone to service in New-York, to her Mother in the country.

DEAR MOTHER,

It is now a month that I have been at Mr. Wilson's, and I thank God that I like my place so well. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbors. At my first coming here I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets ; but what I suffer most from is, the remembrance of your's and my father's kindness ; but I begin to get more reconciled to my state, as I know you were not able to support me at home. I return you a thousand thanks for the kind advice you were so kind to give me at parting, and I shall endeavor to practice it as long as I live ; let me hear from you as often as you have an opportunity ; so with my duty to you and my father, and love to all friends,

I remain ever, your most dutiful daughter.

LETTER 28.

The Mother's Answer.

MY DEAR CHILD,

I am glad to hear that you have got into so good a family. You know that we never should have parted from you had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow servants. Never speak ill of any body, but when you hear a bad story, try

to soften it as much as you can ; do not repeat it again, but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you, from the good character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from your business I hope you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible, and the whole Duty of Man. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my dear child's happiness. Remember, that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their kind love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child ! and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and particularly to

Your affectionate mother.

LETTER 29.

From an Uncle to his Nephew, an apprentice, on his keeping bad company, bad hours &c.

DEAR NEPHEW,

I am very much concerned to hear, that you are of late fallen into bad company ; that you keep bad hours, and give great uneasiness to your master, and break the rules of his family. That when he expostulates with you on this account, you return pert and bold answers ; and instead of promising or endeavoring to amend, repeat the offence ; and have entered into clubs and societies of young fellows, who set at naught all good example, and make such persons who would do their duty, the subject of their ridicule, as persons of narrow minds, and who want the courage to do as they do.

Let me on this occasion expostulate with you, and set before you the evil of the way you are in. In the first place : what can you mean by breaking the rules of a family you had bound yourself by contract to observe ? Do you think it honest, to break through engagements into which you have solemnly entered ? Seven years, several of which are elapsed, is not so long a term but that you may see it terminate before you are over fit to be trusted with your own conduct. Twenty-one or twenty-two years of age is full early for a young man to be his own master, whatever you may think ; and you may surely stay till then at least, to choose your own hours, and your own company ; and I fear as you go on, if you do not mend your ways, your discretion will not then do credit to your choice. Remember you have no time you can call your own, during the continuance of your contract ; and must you abuse your master in a double sense : rob him of his time, especially if any of it be hours of business : rob him of his rest ; break the peace of his family, and give a bad example to others ? And all for what ? Why to riot in the company of a set of persons, who contemn, as they teach you to do, all order and discipline ; who, in all likelihood, will lead you into gaming, drinking, swearing, and even more dangerous vices, to the unhinging of your mind from your business, which must be your future support.

Consider, I exhort you, in time, to what these courses may lead you. Consider the affliction you will give to all your friends, by your continuance in them. Lay together the substance of the conversation that passes in a whole evening, with your frothy companions, after you have come from them, and reflect what solid truth, what useful lessons, worthy of being inculcated in your fu-

ture life, that whole evening has afforded you ; and consider whether it is worth breaking through all rule and order for?—Whether your present conduct is such as you would allow in a servant of your own ? Whether you are so capable to pursue your business with that ardour and delight next morning, as if you had not drank or kept bad hours over night ? If not, whether your master has not a double loss and damage from your misspent evenings ? Whether the taking of small liberties, as you may think them, leads you not on to greater ? For let me tell you, that you will not find it in your power to stop when you will : and then, whether any restraint at all will not in time be irksome to you ?

I have gone through the like servitude with pleasure and credit. I found myself my own master full soon for my discretion : what you think of yourself I know not ; but I wish you may do as well for your own interest and reputation too, as I have done for mine : and I assure you I should not have thought it either creditable or honest to do as you do. I could have stood the laugh of an hundred such vain companions as you choose, for being too narrow minded to break through all moral obligations to my master, in order to show the bravery of a bad heart, and what an abandoned mind dared to perpetrate. A bad beginning seldom makes a good ending, and if you were assured that you could stop when you come for yourself, which is very improbable, how will you answer it to equity and a good conscience, that you will not do so for your master ? There is, let me tell you, more true bravery of mind in forbearing to do an injury, than in giving offence. You are now at an age, when you should study to improve not divert your faculties. You should now lay in a fund of knowledge, that in time, when rip-

ened by experience, may make you a worthy member of the commonwealth. Do you think you have nothing to learn, either as to your business, or as to the forming of your mind? Would it not be much better to choose the silent, the sober conversation of books, than of such companions as never read or think? Let me entreat you then, my dear kinsman, for your family's sake, for your own sake, before it be too late, to reflect as you ought upon the course you have entered into. By applying yourself to books, instead of such vain company, you will be qualified in time for the best of company, and be respected by all ranks of men. This will keep you out of unnecessary expenses, will employ all your leisure time, will exclude a world of temptations, and finally set you above that wretched company which now you seem so much delighted with.

And one thing let me recommend to you, that you keep a list of the young men of your standing within the compass of your knowledge, and for the next seven years observe what fate will attend them: see if those who follow not the course you have so lately entered into, will not appear in a very different light from those who do: and for the industry and prosperity of the one, and the decay or failure of the other, (if their vain ways do not blast them before or as soon as they begin the world) you'll find abundant reason every day to justify the truth of the observations I have thrown together. As nothing but my affection for you could possibly influence me to these expostulations, I hope for a proper effect from them, if you would be thought well of by, or expect any favor from,

Your loving uncle.

P. S. Your master will, at my request, send me word of the success of my remonstrance.

LETTER 30.

An Uncle in answer to a Nephew's complaining of hardship in his apprenticeship.

DEAR NEPHEW,

I am sorry you should have any misunderstanding with your master : I have a good opinion of him, and am unwilling to entertain a bad one of you. It is so much a master's interest to use his apprentices well, that I am disposed to think that when they are badly used it is oftener the effect of provocation than choice. Wherefore, before I give myself the trouble of interposing in your behalf, I desire that you will inquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration in your master's behaviour of which you so much complain. If, after having diligently complied with this request, you assure me that you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my endeavors to reconcile you to your master, or procure you another. But if you find yourself blameable, it will be better for you to remove, by your own amendment, the occasion of your master's displeasure, than to have me or any other friend, offer to plead your excuse, where you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be your case, all your friends together could promise your better behaviour, indeed ; but as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much more to your character to pass through your whole term, without any interposition between you. Weigh what I have here said ; and remember that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behaviour.

I am your loving kinsman.

LETTER 31.

From a Mother to her Son on the same subject:

MY DEAR SAMUEL,

You cannot imagine how sorry I was to hear that your master and you do not agree so well as I could wish. I was always afraid you would expect the same indulgence when you got abroad into the world, as you experienced when at home. You know, that in many instances, I have endeavored to make seeming hardships as easy to you as I could ; but if this makes you more difficult to be satisfied, it would be a great trouble to me. Your uncle tells me, and I am afraid with too much truth, that the indulgences you have received from me, have made your present situation more disagreeable than it would otherwise have been. Whatever I have done for you, was always intended for your good, and nothing could so deeply afflict me, as to see my tenderness have a mischievous effect. Therefore, my dear child, to my constant care for you, do not add the sorrow of my seeing it the cause of your behaving worse, than if I had been less tender to you. Before we put you to your master, we had a very pleasing character of him from all his neighbours, and those who had any dealings with him. As Mr. James, who is now out of his time, gives him the best of characters, and declares your mistress to be a woman of great prudence and good conduct, I know not how to think they would in any respect use you ill. Consider, my dear, you must not, in any other woman than myself, expect to find a fond and perhaps partial mother ; for the little failings which I could not see in you, will conspicuously appear to other persons. My

affection for you would make me wish you to be always with me ; but as that would be inconsistent with your future welfare, and as you must certainly be a gainer from the situation you are now in, let a desire to promote my happiness as well as your own, make every seeming difficulty light. I have desired your uncle to interpose in this matter, and he will write to you soon. He has promised to see justice done you, provided your complaints are founded on reason. Believe me, my dear child,

Your affectionate mother.

LETTER 32.

From a Father to a Son, on his negligence in his affairs.

DEAR JAMES,

You cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Remissness is inexcusable in all men, but in none so much as in a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence and punctuality.

Let me beg you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted ; quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreations, and apply to your counting house with diligence. It may not yet be too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect therefore your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expenses ; and then see which of the latter you can, and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverished trader is put to, for the remainder of his life ; which too, may happen to be the prime part of it ; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered ; the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly ; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably ; and how, on the contrary, from being born to a creditable expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for ! and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, careless, thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction, beyond the present hour, if in that ; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he begins to reflect. Think seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your own mind, comfort to your family ; and which will give at the same time the highest satisfaction to

Your careful and loving father.

LETTER 33.

The Son's grateful answer.

HONORED SIR,

I return you my sincere thanks for your seasonable reproof and advice. I have indeed too much indulged myself in an idle, careless habit ; and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your

letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. But, indeed, they wanted but their own, so I could only blame myself, who had brought their rough usage upon me. Your letter came so seasonable upon this, that I hope it will not want the desired effect ; and as I think it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course with myself and my affairs, that I may avoid the ill consequences you so judiciously forewarn me of, and give to my family and friends the pleasure they so well deserve at my hands ; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is owing to him by his

Most dutiful son.

LETTER 34.

From an aged Lady in the country, to her Niece in New York, cautioning her against keeping company with a Gentleman of a bad character.

DEAR NIECE,

The sincere love and affection which I now have for your indulgent father, and ever had for your virtuous mother, when she was alive, together with the tender regard for your future happiness and welfare, have prevailed on me rather to inform by letter than by word of mouth, concerning what I have heard of your unguarded conduct, and the too great freedoms you take with Mr. Lovelace. You have been seen with him at the Theatre, Columbia, Mount Vernon, and Vauxhall Gardens. Do not imagine, niece, that I write this from a principle of ill nature, it is on purpose to save you from ruin ! for, let me tell you, your familiarity with him gives me no small

concern, as his character is extremely bad, and as he has acted in the most ungenerous manner to two or three virtuous young ladies of my acquaintance, who entertained too favorable an opinion of his honor. It is possible, as you have no great fortune to expect, and as he has an uncle from whom he expects a considerable estate, that you may be tempted to imagine his address an offer to your advantage ; but that is greatly to be questioned ; for I have heard that he is deep in debt, as also that he is privately engaged to a rich old widow in the Jerseys. In short my dear, he is a perfect libertine, and is ever boasting of favors from our weak sex, whose fondness and frailty are the constant topics of his railing and ridicule.

Let me prevail on you, dear niece, to avoid his company as you would that of a madman ; for, notwithstanding I still hope you are strictly virtuous, yet your good name may be irreparably lost by such open acts of imprudence. I have no other motive but an unaffected zeal for your interest and welfare. I flatter myself you will not be offended with the liberty here taken, by

Your sincere friend,

and affectionate aunt.

LETTER 35.

'The young Lady's Answer.

HONORED MADAM,

I received your letter, and when I consider your reasons for writing, I thankfully acknowledge you my friend. It is true, I have been at those public places you mention, along with Mr. Lovelace, but was ignorant of his real character. He did make me proposals of mar-

riage, but I told him I would do nothing without my father's consent. He came to visit me this morning, when I told him, that a regard for my reputation, obliged me never to see him any more nor even to correspond with him by letter, and you may depend on my adhering to that resolution. In the meantime, I return you a thousand thanks for your friendly advice. I am sensible, every young woman ought to be careful of her reputation, and constantly avoid the company of libertines. To convince you of my sincerity, I shall leave New York in about six weeks, and will call and see you, after I have been at my father's.

I am, honored madam,
your affectionate niece.

LETTER 36.

From a Sailor at New York, to his Wife in Albany.

DEAR BETTY,

We are just returned from a cruise against the Algerines, where we have given them such a drubbing, that I believe the infidels will soon be glad to make peace with us. We have sunk two, and taken three of their vessels, wherein is great treasure ; but it will be sometime before we receive our prize money. However, I have six months wages due, and I have sent you an order, by which you will receive it at the pay office. We shall sail again in a few days. Do not be uneasy for me my dear, as I hope the war will soon be over, and I shall have the pleasure, once more, to see you in New York, there to spend the remainder of my days.

I am your loving husband till death.

LETTER 37.

From a young Woman, a servant in New York, to her Parents,
desiring their consent to marry.

HONORED FATHER AND MOTHER,

I have sent this to inform you, that one Mr. Wood, a young man, a cabinet maker, has paid his addresses to me and now offers me marriage ; I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and therefore, have sent this by William Jones, your neighbor who called on me, and will inform you particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been set up in business about two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighborhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but do not choose to give him my promise, until I have first heard from you ; whatever answer you send, shall be obeyed by

Your affectionate daughter.

LETTER 38.

The Parent's Answer.

DEAR CHILD,

We received your letter by Mr. Jones, and the character he gives of the young man is so agreeable, that we have no objection to your marrying him ; begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state, before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each other, you must be either happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life, in which the

best of men's tempers may be ruffled, on account of losses or disappointments ; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavor to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping ; and never affect to appear superior to your station ; for although your circumstances may be easy, yet, whilst in trade, you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbors may despise you for a while, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge, that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all, remember your duty to God, and then you may cheerfully look for a blessing on your honest endeavor. May God direct you in every thing for the best, is the sincere prayer of

Your loving father and mother.

LETTER 39.

From a Father to a Daughter, in dislike of her intentions to marry at too early an age.

DEAR SALLY,

I was greatly surprised at the letter you sent me last week. I was willing to believe I saw in you for your years, so much of your late dear mother's temper, prudence, and a virtuous disposition, that I refused several advantageous offers of changing my own condition, purely for your sake : and will you now convince me so early, that I have no return to expect from you, but that the moment a young fellow throws himself in your way, you have nothing else to do, but to give me notice to provide a fortune for you ? and that you intend to be of no fur-

ther use and service to me ? this, in plain English, is the meaning of your notification. For I suppose your young man does not intend to marry you without a fortune. And can you then think, that a father has nothing to do, but to confer benefits on his children, without being entitled to expect any return from them ?

To be sure I had proposed at a proper time, to find a husband for you ; but I thought I had yet three or four years to come. For consider, Sally, you are not fully sixteen years of age ; and a wife, believe me, ought to have some better qualifications than an agreeable person, to preserve a husband's esteem, though it often is enough to attract a lover's notice.

Have you experience enough, think you, discreetly to conduct the affairs of a family ? I thought you as yet not quite capable to manage my house ; and I am sure my judgment always took a bias in your favor.

Besides, let me tell you, I have great exceptions to the person, and think him by no means the man I would choose for your husband. For which, if it be not too late, I will give you good reasons.

On the whole, you must expect if you marry without my consent, to live without my assistance. Think it not hard :—your disappointment cannot be greater than mine, if you will proceed. I have never used violent measures with you on any occasion, and shall not on this. But yet I earnestly hope you will not hurry yourself to destruction, and me perhaps to the grave, by an action which a little consideration may so easily prevent.

I am your afflicted father.

LETTER 40.

From an elder to a younger Brother, cautioning him in the choice
of a Wife.

DEAR WILLIAM,

Your interest is more the object of my thoughts, than you, perhaps, imagine. I feel it to be my duty to advise you for your good, and particularly in a point that may be so material to your whole life as that of love. Miss Howard is amiable on many accounts ; her features are regular, her wit sprightly, her deportment genteel, and her voice, I had almost said, ravishing. Yet do I greatly fear, with all these endowments, she will not make the wife you ought to wish for. Her airy flights, and gay behaviour are pleasing as a partner in conversation ; but will they be equally agreeable in a partner for life ? What now charms you, charms all others. Though she is delightful in company, are you satisfied she will be as agreeable when alone with you, or when she has not an opportunity of figuring away in company ? She now sees nobody but whom she chooses to see ; if she should be a wife it is more than probable that she may not like restraints ; and can you approve of a diffuse conversation in one you desire to yourself ? Think not, brother, that I have any interested motive for this advice, for I assure you I have not. I am not your rival ; nor do I desire the lady you seem too fond of. As very few prudent matches are made by young gentlemen of your age, I caution you against thinking of a young woman who may be a suitable companion to a gentleman whose station and choice lead him into much company and gay life ; but to men whose circumstances require a more retired way of life,

it is obvious a woman, whose talents lie principally in conversation, can never for that reason only, justify a young gentleman for choosing her for a wife. Shut not your ears to reason, forget not yourself, and be sure to remember that the pleasure of an hour or two, and that of twenty or thirty years, or a whole life, must arise from very different sources.

I am, dear brother,

Yours, most affectionately.

LETTER 41.

From a Daughter to her Father, pleading for her Sister, who had married without his consent.

HONORED SIR,

The kind indulgence you have always shown to your children, makes me presume to become an advocate for my sister though not for her fault. She is very sensible of that, and sorry she has offended you; but has great hopes that Mr. Robinson will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for her past wildness, and engage your forgiveness: for all of your children are sensible of your paternal kindness, and that you wish their good more for their sakes than your own.

This makes it the more wicked to offend so good a father: but, dear sir, be pleased to consider, that it cannot now be helped, and that she may be made by your displeasure very miserable in her choice; and that his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth: otherwise, it would not have been a very discreditable match, had it had your approbation. I could humbly hope for my poor sister's sake, that you will be pleased rather to

encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favor, than to make him despair of a reconciliation, and so perhaps treat her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not apprehensive of; for he is really very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. Yet is she dejected for her fault to you, and wishes yet dreads to have your leave to throw herself at your feet, to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy.

Pardon, sir, my interposing in her favor, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister. She is your daughter; though she has not done so worthily as I wish, to become that character. Be pleased, sir, to forgive her, however; and also forgive me, pleading for her; who am

Your ever dutiful daughter.

LETTER 42.

The Father's Answer.

DEAR NANCY,

You must believe that your sister's unadvised marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet I will assure you that it arises more from my affection for her, than any other consideration. In her education I took all the pains and care my circumstances would admit, and often flattered myself with the hope that the happy fruits of it would be made to appear in her prudent conduct. What she has now done is not vicious, but indiscreet; you must remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the wild assertion of a rake making a good hus-

band, was the most dangerous opinion a young woman could imbibe.

I will not however, in pity to her, point out the many ills I am afraid will attend her rashness, because it is done, and cannot be helped ; but wish she may be happier than I ever saw a woman who leaped so fatal a precipice.

Her husband has this morning been with me for her fortune ; and it was with much decision I told him, that as all she could hope for was at my disposal, I should disburse it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage ; and that as he was a stranger to me, I should choose to know how he deserved it, before he had the power over what I intended for her. He bit his lip, and with a hasty step was my humble servant.

Tell the rash girl I would not have her to be afflicted at this behaviour in me ; for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other ; if he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behaviour from this disappointment ; but if he married only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession, rather than his.

Your interposition in her behalf is very sisterly : and you see I have not the resentment she might expect. But I truly wish that she had acted with your prudence ; for her own sake I wish it.

I am your loving father.

LETTER 43.

From an Uncle to his Nephew, on the pernicious habit of drinking to excess.

DEAR NEPHEW,

When I consider your age, inexperience, and situation, and how often you will, unavoidably, be led into company, I think I cannot employ a vacant hour better, than in laying before you a few thoughts on the detestable practice of drinking to excess ; and I enter on this business the more cheerfully, because I am confident you have hitherto been careful to follow my advice.

There is no vice carries a greater shame and odium in it than drunkenness. There is no spectacle we behold with greater aversion and contempt. It sinks a man infinitely below the beasts that perish. The brutes are guilty of no excess—This is the prerogative of man. This shameful vice throws the mind into universal confusion and uproar ; lays the understanding and reason in sad and deplorable ruins ; effaces every thing that can be called the image of God ; extinguishes reason and inflames the passions ; dethrones the judgment, and exalts our worst desires in its place. The world has not in it a more contemptible sight than a rational creature in this condition. A famous republic of old used to make their slaves drunk, and expose them in that condition to their children, that, by seeing their ridiculous actions, hearing their ridiculous expressions, and beholding that deplorable alienation of reason which this vice occasions, they might be effectually deterred from it. They thought, says an useful writer, that were they to apply wholly to the reason of their youth, it might prove to little purpose,

as the force of the arguments, which they now employed, might not be sufficiently comprehended, or the impression might soon be effaced : but when they made them frequently eye witnesses of all the madness and absurdities, and at length of the perfect senselessness which the immoderate draught occasioned, the idea of the vile change would be so fixed in the minds of its beholders, as to render them utterly averse to its cause.

And may we not justly conclude it to be from hence that the offspring of the persons, who are accustomed thus to disguise themselves, often prove remarkably sober ? They avoid in their riper years their parent's crime, from that detestation of it which they contracted in their earlier years. As to most other vices, their debasing circumstances are not fully known to us, till we have attained a maturity of age : nor can be then, till they have been duly attended to. But in our very childhood, at our first beholding the effects of drunkenness, we are stricken with astonishment, that a rational being should be thus changed—and be induced to make himself the object of scorn and contempt. And indeed we must hold the man in the utmost contempt, whom we hear and see in his progress to excess ; at first, teasing you with his contentiousness and impertinence ; mistaking your meaning and hardly knowing his own ; then, faltering in his speech ; unable to get through an entire sentence ; his hands trembling ; his eyes swimming ; his legs too feeble to support him ; till at length you only know the human creature by his shape.

I cannot but add, that were a person of sense to have a just notion of all the silly things he says or does, of the wretched appearance he makes in a drunken fit, he could

not want a more powerful argument against repeating the crime.

But as none of us are inclined to think ill of ourselves, so none of us will know how far our vices expose us. We allow them excuses which they meet not with from any but ourselves.

This is the case of all : it is particularly so with drunkards : many of whom their shame would undoubtedly reform, could they be brought to conceive how much they do of which they ought to be ashamed :

Nor is it improbable that it is the very consideration, how much drunkenness contributes to make a man the contempt of his wife, his children, his servants, of all sober spectators, which hath proved the cause that it hath seldom been the reigning vice of any people possessed of refinement of manners. Nay, drunkenness prevails most amongst the savage and uncivilized, amongst those of ruder understandings and less delicacy of sentiment. Crimes, as they are in men, there must be in all nations ; but the more civilized have perceived drunkenness to be such an offence against common decency, such a prostitution of one's self to the ridicule and scoffs of the meanest, that in whatever else they might transgress, they would not do it in this particular ; but leave a vice of such a degrading nature to the wild and uncultivated, to the stupid and undistinguishing part of mankind, to those who had no notion of propriety of character, and decency of conduct. How late this vice became the reproach of our countrymen, we find in Camden's annals. Under the year 1581, he has this observation : " The English, who hitherto had, of all the northern nations, shown themselves the least addicted to immoderate drinking, and been commended for their sobriety, first learn-

ed in these wars in the Netherlands, to swallow a large quantity of intoxicating liquor, and to destroy their own health by drinking that of others."

There is hardly any vice which entails more complicated miseries upon the unhappy wretch that is a slave to it, than drunkenness. It gradually undermines the strength and vigor both of body and mind. We every day see the most deplorable effects of this most shameful vice, in the ruined health, constitution, and fortune of vast numbers of our fellow creatures. How many ingenious and industrious persons has this rendered useless and worthless ! How many happy families does this daily reduce to indigence and beggary ! How many innocent sufferers doth it involve in its deplorable consequences ! How many have I known who began life creditably and reputably, with a basis, on which through industry and virtue, to rear the structure of an ample fortune ; by contracting these fatal and cursed habits have ruined themselves and their families forever ! For of all the vices there is none so incurable as this, when it is once contracted. Other vices leave us with age ; this fixes its roots deeper, and acquires strength and firmness with revolving years. It kindles an infernal spark which is absolutely inextinguishable.

Besides, drunkenness is an inlet to all kinds of wickedness. For, when a man has no reason to direct him, he is prepared for any enormity. It gives every species of temptation power over us, by disqualifying us for consideration, and by extinguishing in us all regard to prudence and caution.

It stimulates us to follow the rashest advice of our companions, because not allowing us to reason upon it, and incapacitating us for self government, it of course

abandons us to the guidance of those with whom we are the most pleased, of those who countenance all our excesses.

It certainly lays us open to the greatest crimes; because when we are thoroughly heated by the inebriating draught, we are then enamoured of what is daring and extravagant—we then aspire to bold and desperate undertakings, and that which is the most licentious then carries with it the appearance of a great and glorious enterprise adapted to a courageous and intrepid mind. Hence rapes, adulteries, murders, acts of the last inhumanity and barbarity have been perpetrated: actions, for which, if the very thoughts of them could have entered their minds in their sober moments, they would justly have abhorred themselves. Alexander the Great, at the instigation of a drunken harlot, issued from his cups, with torches, and burnt Persepolis, the metropolis of the Persian empire, one of the most stately cities in the whole world.

The most fatal mischief, from which one branch of the medical profession derives its principal support, very frequently results from a state of intoxication. Young persons, when inflamed with wine, hesitate not to throw themselves, in this state of inebriety, into the arms of the very lowest class of prostitutes, with whom all great cities swarm in the midnight hours—creatures covered with filth, itch, and rags, putrid with disease, and devoured with vermin, whom in their senses and sober hours they would have regarded with the utmost detestation and horror.

I am your affectionate uncle.

LETTER 44.

From a Younger to an older Brother.

DEAR BROTHER,

Beside the inclination that I have to write to you concerning every thing that happens to me here, I find it is a duty. My mother tells me, that having now no father, I am to look upon you as one; I do not know whether it will be to my advantage or not; but of this I am sure, that I shall find in you all the indulgence, and none of the severity.

My mother gave me her commands, when she parted from me, that I should consider you in this double light; she bade me not lose that respect which was due to your years, and more due to the care which she had desired you to take of me, in that familiarity we used to live together as acquaintance; I am sure I shall obey her. You may remember that she followed me to the stage, but you cannot know the reason; I suppose affection did not want its part; but there was something beside; she took that opportunity of giving me this command, being willing to say these things rather before strangers than yourself.

I hope I have not, brother, been bred up with so good a person as you, to be ignorant of that respect which is due to a parent. I should have obeyed the command had it been delivered in any manner, but I could see her hold up her handkerchief many times when she spoke to me. O brother, every tear she shed has cost me a thousand! but do not speak of it, to give her uneasiness; I only name it to you, to show how seriously I received her instructions; he that can disregard a parents' com-

mand, deserves nothing of that length of life which is promised to the obedient ; but if there be any who can slight a mother's tears, the world ought to disown him.

I do assure you, I am resolved to obey her perfectly ; and I give you this account as an engagement to that obedience ; perhaps you will say, it is a first fruit of it ; but, however that be, you have it to reproach me withal, if ever I forget to obey you as a father, while I love you as a brother.

I am, with the most true affection and respect,

Your obedient brother.

LETTER 45.

From a Merchant's Widow to a lady, a distant relation, in behalf of her two Orphans.

MADAM,

When you look at the subscription of this letter, I doubt not of your being much surprised with its contents ; but it is more on account of your amiable character, than that I have the honor of being your relation, that I have presumed to trouble you with this.

My late husband, whom you know was reputed to be in affluent circumstances, has been dead about six months ; his whole accounts have been settled with his creditors ; and because of many losses and bad debts, there is not above one thousand dollars left for myself ; I have a son just turned of fourteen, whom I want to bind apprentice to a reputable trade ; and a daughter near seventeen, whose education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial servant, but who would willingly be the companion of some young lady, where she might be treated

with familiarity and tenderness. In circumstances so distressing, I have presumed to address myself to you ; your long acquaintance with the world will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not but your unbounded generosity will induce you to comply with a request dictated by the severity of affliction.

I am, with respect, your humble servant.

LETTER 46.

The Lady's Answer.

MADAM,

I know not whether I am more affected with the modest representation of your affliction, or pleased that I have it in my power to assist you. You see, madam, that all human expectations are vain, and often attended with deception. When we think our circumstances are independent, there is generally some latent mischief hidden under the specious appearance ; and this should teach us continually to look to that Providence which superintends the affairs of this lower world, and orders all for the good of its creatures. With respect to your two children, I have proposed the following scheme for their benefit.

Let the boy think of some trade, to which his inclinations lead him, and I will provide him with every necessary during his apprenticeship ; and at the expiration of that term, if his behaviour is agreeable, advance something to set him up in business. As for the girl, let her be sent immediately to my house, where she shall be brought up along with my daughters, and every thing in my power done to serve her.

I expect, that from time to time, you will communicate to me an account of your own circumstances, that I may be happy in alleviating every calamity.

I am, &c.

LETTER 47.

From an indulgent Father to a profligate Son.

MY SON,

Your continued ill courses oblige me to write this letter to you. I flattered myself that your solemn promise of amendment might have been better depended on ; but I see, to my great mortification, that all I have done for you, and all I have said to you, are thrown away. Perhaps this remaining with you, if you will now and then seriously peruse it, may, in some happy moment, give you reflection, and, by God's grace, bring on your repentance and amendment. Consider then, I beseech you, in time, the evil of your ways, that your present courses must impair a good constitution, destroy your health, and undoubtedly shorten your life. No family, which values their own honor and the welfare of their child, will suffer your addresses to a daughter worthy of being sought after for a wife, should you incline to marry. In that case, the worst of the sex only will accept of you as a companion for life, which will make you completely miserable, when you had it in your power to be as happy. As to another world, beyond this transitory one, my heart trembles for what most probably will be the consequence to your poor soul; for the human mind is seldom at a stop.

Do not, my dear son, let your poor mother and I have the mortification to think, that we have been the unhappy

means of giving life to a child of perdition, instead of glory ; consider, my dear son, we do not want any thing of you but your own good. Let us but have reason to hope, that when we are dead and gone, you will support our name with credit, and be no burden to your poor sisters, nor disgrace to our memories. Let them think of you as a protector in my stead, rather than as an ungrateful spoiler among them. My dear son, I conjure you by our hopes and fears from infancy to manhood, to think of all these things ; reflect on the instability of all worldly enjoyments. Your good mother, who mingles her tears so often with mine, to deplore the sad prospect your ill courses give us, joins also her prayers to mine that this my last effort may be attended with success, and that you will at last listen to the advice of

Your indulgent and afflicted father.

LETTER 48.

From a Daughter to a Father, wherein she dutifully expostulates against a match he had proposed to her, with a Gentleman much older than herself.

HONORED SIR,

Though your injunctions should prove diametrically opposite to my own secret inclinations, yet I am not insensible that the duty which I owe you binds me to comply with them. Besides, I should be very ungrateful, should I presume, in any point whatever, considering your numberless acts of parental indulgence towards me, to contest your will and pleasure. Though the consequences thereof should prove ever so fatal, I am determined to be all obedience, in case what I have to offer in

my own defence should have no influence over you, or be thought an insufficient plea for my aversion to a match, which, unhappily for me, you seem to approve of. It is very possible, sir, the gentleman you recommend to my choice, may be possessed of that substance, and all those good qualities, that bias you so strongly in his favor ; but be not angry, dear sir, when I remind you that there is a vast disproportion in our years. A lady of more experience and of a more advanced age, would, in my humble opinion, be a more fit helpmate for him. To be ingenuous (permit me, good sir, to speak the sentiments of my heart without reserve for once) a man, almost in his grand climacterick, can never be an agreeable companion for me : nor can the natural gaiety of my temper, which has hitherto been indulged by yourself in every innocent amusement, be over agreeable to him. Though his fondness at first may connive at the little freedoms I shall be apt to take ; yet as soon as the edge of his appetite shall be abated, he will grow jealous, and forever torment me without a cause. I shall be debarred of every diversion suitable to my years, though ever so harmless and inoffensive ; permitted to see no company ; hurried down perhaps to some melancholy rural recess : and there, like my lady Grace in the play, sit pensive and alone, under a green tree. Your long experienced goodness, and that tender regard, which you have always expressed for my ease and satisfaction, encourage me thus freely to expostulate with you on an affair of so great importance. If, however, after all, you shall judge the inequality of our age an insufficient plea in my favor, and that want of affection for a husband is but a trifle, where there is a large fortune, and a coach and six to throw into the scale ; if, in short, you shall lay your peremptory

commands upon me to resign up all my real happiness and peace of mind for the vanity of living in pomp and grandeur, I am ready to submit to your superior judgment. Give me leave, however, to observe, that it is impossible for me ever to love the man into whose arms I am to be thrown, and that my compliance with so detested a proposition, is nothing more than the result of the most inviolable duty to a father, who never made the least attempt before to thwart the inclinations of

His ever obedient daughter.

LETTER 49.

Mrs. Rowe* to her Mother, on the approach of her own death.

MADAM,

I am now taking a final adieu of this world, in certain hope of meeting you in the next. I carry to my grave my affection and gratitude to you. I leave you with the sincerest concern for your own happiness, and the welfare of your family. May my prayers be answered when I am sleeping in the dust. May the angels of God conduct you in the paths of immortal pleasure.

I would collect the powers of my soul, and ask blessings for you with the holy violence of prayer. God Almighty, the God of your pious ancestors, who has been your dwelling-place for many generations, bless you—It is but a short space I have to measure; my shadows are lengthening, and my sun declining: that goodness which has hitherto conducted me, will not fail me in the conclu-

*She was a woman of exemplary piety, and authoress of several valuable works. She was born in England in the year 1674, and died 1737.

ding act of life : that name which I have made my glory and my boast, shall then be my strength and my salvation.

To meet death with becoming fortitude is a part above the powers of nature, and which I can perform by no power or holiness of my own ; for, O ! in my best state I am altogether vanity,—a wretched, helpless sinner ; but in the merits and perfect righteousness of God my Saviour, I hope to appear justified, at the supreme tribunal, where I must shortly stand to be judged.

[N. B. This letter was not to be sent to her mother till she was dead.]

LETTER 50.

The Earl of Stafford to his Son, just before his Lordship's execution.

MY DEAREST WILL,

These are the last lines that you are to receive from a father that tenderly loves you. I wish there were greater leisure to impart my mind to you ; but our merciful God will supply all things by his grace, and will guide and protect you in all your ways ; to whose infinite goodness I bequeath you ; and therefore be not discouraged, but serve him, and trust in him, and he will preserve you in all things. Be sure you give all respect to my wife, who hath ever had a great love unto you, and therefore it will be well becoming you. Never be wanting in your love and care to your sisters, but let them ever be most dear unto you : for this will give others cause to esteem and respect you for it, and is a duty you owe them in the memory of your excellent mother and myself :

therefore your care and affection to them must be the very same that you are to have of yourself; and also the like regard must you have to your youngest sister, for indeed you owe it to her also, both for her father's and mother's sake. Sweet Will, be careful to take the advice of those friends, who are, by me, desired to advise you for your education. Serve God diligently, morning and evening, and recommend yourself unto him, and have him before your eyes in all your ways. With patience hear the instruction of those friends I leave with you, and diligently follow their counsel. For, till you come by time to have experience in the world, it will be far more safe to trust to their judgment than your own. Lose not the time of your youth, but gather those seeds of virtue and knowledge which may be of use to yourself, and comfort to your friends for the rest of your life. And that this may be the better effected, attend thereunto with patience, and be sure to correct and restrain yourself from anger. Suffer not sorrow to cast you down; but with cheerfulness and good courage go on the race you have to run in all sobriety and truth. Be sure, with an hallowed care, to have respect to all the commandments of God, allowing not yourself to neglect them in the least thing, lest by degrees, you come to forget them in the greatest; for the heart of man is deceitful above all things. And in all your duties and devotions towards God, rather perform them joyfully than pensively; for God loves a cheerful giver. For your religion, let it be directed according to that which shall be taught by those who are in God's church, the proper teachers thereof, rather than that you either fancy one to yourself, or be led by men that are singular in their own opinion, and delight to go in ways of their own finding out: for you

will certainly find soberness and truth in the one, and much vanity and unsteadiness in the other. The king, I trust, will deal graciously with you ; restore you these honors, and that fortune which a distempered time hath deprived you of, together with the life of your father ; which I rather advise might be a new gift and creation from himself than by other means, to the end you may pay the thanks to him, without having obligations to any other. Be sure to avoid, as much as you can, to inquire after those who have been sharp in their judgments towards me, and I charge you never to suffer a thought of revenge to enter your heart ; but be careful to be informed who were my friends in this prosecution, and to them apply yourself to make them your friends also, and on such you may rely, and bestow much of your conversation amongst them. And God Almighty, of his infinite goodness, bless you and your children's children ; and his same goodness bless your sisters in like manner : perfect you in every good work, and give you a right understanding in all things.

Your most loving father.

LETTER 51.

From one Cousin to another on making and breaking Promises.

DEAR COUSIN,

I have more than once remarked how very prone you are to make promises ; but I seldom or ever knew you to fulfil *one* ; this, I must confess, has very much hurt your character ; some people have, in consequence, called you a liar ; others, more mild, a fool ; instead of making friends by it, you have certainly lost many. As

you subject yourself to be frequently teased and insulted, by this foolish custom, I wonder you do not drop it. Were I to repeat my visits every day till you fulfilled all the promises you made me since last week, I fear I should soon become troublesome and disagreeable; and I assure you, if you do not drop this mode of promising, without any intention of performing, I shall give you up as one on whom civility is thrown away, and not only that, but I shall persuade your other acquaintance to follow my example.

A very little reflection and sincerity will enable you to fulfil all that you promise, by taking care to promise no more than you mean to perform. By a strict adherence to which you may yet retrieve your character.

I remain, yours, &c.

PART II.

LETTERS ON BUSINESS.

LETTER 52.

From a young Man in the Country, to a Merchant in New York,
offering correspondence.

SIR,

My apprenticeship with Mr. Wilson being expired, during which I had proofs of your integrity in all your dealings with my worthy master ; my parents have given me two hundred pounds to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage ; that I may be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would choose to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to you, I hereby offer you my correspondence, not doubting, but you will use me as well as you did Mr. Wilson, and you may depend on my punctuality with respect to payments.

My late master has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order as soon and as cheap as possible, and am sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER 53.

The Merchant's Answer.

SIR,

Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a store for yourself. Your behaviour to your late master was such that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent you the goods by the sloop Polly, of Poughkeepsie, in twelve parcels marked X I : and I doubt not but you will be punctual in your returns, which will always enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I heartily wish you success in business, and doubt not but you well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it, and am,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER 54.

From a young Man whose Master had lately died.

SIR,

I doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy employer's death. I have served him as an apprentice and journeyman above twelve years; and as the widow does not choose to carry on the business, I have taken the store and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the inclosed order for the payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt.

Please to send the inclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER 55.

The Answer.

SIR,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my good friend your late master ; but at the same time, pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which, by his dealings with me appears to be very extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales, marked O P, by the Jane, of Saggharbor, John Thompson master, and you will find them as good and cheap as any that are to be had in New York. I heartily thank you for your offered correspondence, and shall on all occasions, use you with honor. I wish you all manner of success, and am,

Your obliged servant.

LETTER 56.

To a Correspondent, requesting the Payment of a sum of Money.

SIR,

Although the balance of the account between us has been standing in my favor, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected de-

mand been made upon me for a very considerable sum, which, without your assistance, is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you I shall inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received by

Your humble servant.

LETTER 57.

Answer.

SIR,

I have just received yours and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of my two principal debtors. I have just received a remittance from New Brunswick, and am greatly pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two thousand dollars, for which I have sent an order on Mr. Cash the banker. I hope you will surmount this and every other difficulty, and am,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 58.

From a Merchant at St. Thomas', to a Brother in New York ; desiring him to sell some Goods, and purchase others.

SIR,

According to the agreement settled between us when I left America, I have sent by the Trident, Captain Johnson, twelve bags of green coffee, marked A Z, desiring you to dispose of them to the best advantage ; they are warranted good, as I examined every parcel separately, before they were sent on board. You will receive an inclosed order for several articles of American produce, to be sent by the first ship sailing for this port. Let them be as good and cheap as you can possibly procure, as they are much wanted at present.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER 59.

The Answer.

SIR,

Yours I received, and the twelve bags marked A Z, were delivered at the custom house. I immediately advertised them for sale in twelve different lots, but they were all purchased by a merchant here, the amount for which I have lodged in the bank, in your name. I have likewise shipped on board the Despatch, Captain Hervey, the different articles which you ordered. They are in twenty bales marked B M, I am told they are the best that can be had on the continent, and doubt not of their giving satisfaction.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER 60.

An urgent Demand of Payment.

MR. THOMPSON,

The exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay peremptorily, to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how, from time to time, you have broken them. Can I therefore depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you 'do me, how can you think of carrying on business? if you do not, what must I think of the man, who deals worse by me than he does by others? If you think that you can trespass more upon me than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment on my prudence, or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be entitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments as well as any man; but can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so dependant a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it of me, for these very goods I send you? And can I make a return to him, without receiving it from you? What end can it answer to give you two years credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months credit for myself? Indeed, sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else must deal as little punctually with others; and then what must be the consequence? In short, sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder; as I am very loath to take any harsh measures to procure

justice to myself, my family, and creditors. For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful friend and servant.

LETTER 61.

The Answer.

SIR,

I acknowledge with gratitude the lenity you have always shown, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often, has given me much uneasiness. I do assure you, sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given you reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are very precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I have sent by this day's post an order for 250 dollars, and next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a very short time. I am determined, for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter, a guide in my dealings with those people, whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble servant.

LETTER 62.

From a Young Man in trade, to a Wholesale Dealer, who had suddenly made a demand on him.

SIR,

Your demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article used to be only four months ; as it has been always a custom to allow two months more, I did not think you would have sent for it till that time, and consequently trusted to a practice so long established in trade. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency which hinders me from complying with your request, nor shall I ask any more than is usual. If you will be pleased to let your clerk call this day three weeks for the one half of the sum, it shall be ready, and the remainder in a fortnight after. In the mean time I beg that you will not let any word slip concerning this, as very little will hurt a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have promised ; and if you have any reason to demand the money sooner, be pleased to let me know, that if I have it not I may borrow it ; for if I have lost credit with you, I hope I have not done so with all the world.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER 63.

The Answer.

SIR,

There is no person in the world, who would more willingly show every sort of indulgence to a young be-

ginner than myself, and I am extremely sorry to press you on the present occasion ; but I have reasons ; and although it is not always either fair or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question ; whether you have any dealings with an usurer in your city, and what is his name ? if you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you sooner than the time you mention ; but as it may be done at once, I expect your answer by the bearer, whom you well know, for he was, as he informs me, very lately your clerk.

I assure you, sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have of your integrity, that I refer the payment of my demand to a simple answer to this question ; but I fear it cannot be done.

I am, your friend and well wisher.

LETTER 64.

Soliciting the Loan of money from a Friend.

DEAR SIR,

I believe that ever since you first knew me, you will be ready to acknowledge, that no person was ever more bashful in asking favors than myself. Indeed I have always considered it as more pleasing to an honest mind, to confer, than to receive a favor ; but an unexpected affliction in my family, obliges me to solicit your assistance, by the loan of about two hundred dollars, for six months ; but on this condition, that you can spare it without hurting yourself ; for I would by no means choose that my friend should suffer in his present circumstances in order to oblige me. Indeed sir, I was some days en-

gaged among my friends to raise the money, before I could prevail with myself to ask it from you ; and that I have now done it, is from a principle far more noble than any lucrative motive ; nor indeed would I have asked it at all, were I not morally certain of paying it at the time promised. I hope this will not give any offence, and as I said before, if it is any way inconvenient, let me beg that you will refuse it.

I am, dear sir,

Yours with the greatest sincerity.

LETTER 65.

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

I could not hesitate one moment in answering your letter ; and had I known that my worthy friend had been in want of the sum mentioned, I should never have put his unaffected modesty to the blush, by suffering him to ask for it ; no sir, the offer should have come from myself. However, the sum is sent by the bearer, but let me beg that if you consider me really as your friend, that you will suit the payment to your own circumstances, without being confined to a particular time, and not only so, but that you will likewise command my assistance in every thing else wherein I can serve you. But, lest you think me strictly formal, I have hereby given you leave to draw on me to the amount of two hundred dollars, or for any less sum, to be paid as is most suitable to your circumstances.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER 66.

From a Tradesman to a Customer, demanding payment of money.

SIR,

Your bill for goods supplied last year, has now been delivered upwards of three months, and I have waited on you several times to solicit payment, but have not been so fortunate as to find you at home ; I have a very large sum to make up in the course of a week, and shall esteem it a particular favor, if you can let me have the amount of my bill delivered within that time ; I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in writing to you on this subject, and believe me, sir,

Your obedient, humble servant.

LETTER 67.

Answer to the preceding.

SIR,

I am sorry you have had the trouble of calling so often for your money, and still more that it is not in my power to pay your bill within the time you mention ; I am at present very short of cash, and shall be so for six weeks ; at the end of that time I will settle with you.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER 68.

The Tradesman's reply.

SIR,

I should be sorry to appear troublesome to any customer; but you who are not in any business, may not probably know how subject tradesmen are to large demands for cash, and how much an omission of payment may injure them in the world; the credit on your bill already exceeds, by some months, what it is usual in trade to give, and what I give my customers in general; I hope therefore, you will not take it amiss, that I have drawn on you at six weeks for the amount of my demand; and have sent the bill by my clerk for your acceptance, not doubting that it will be duly honored, and that you will excuse this liberty from,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER 69.

From a Tradesman unable to honor his Acceptance, to a Merchant.

DEAR SIR,

It gives me the greatest pain to be under the necessity of writing to you on the subject I am now about to do, but I think it better to apprise you of the circumstance beforehand, than to permit a bill with your name on it to be dishonored without your knowledge. The failure of Mr. C. who is my debtor to a considerable amount, and from whom I was in daily expectation of payment, has strained me for cash so much that I can only raise \$30

towards the amount of the bill for \$97 17, which I accepted in your favor, and which will become due the day after tomorrow.

If you would have the kindness, if the bill remains in your hands, to receive that sum in part, and my acceptance at two months for the remainder, I will take care it shall be duly attended to ; or if the bill is out of your hands, if you would favor me with cash to supply the deficiency, I will give you the like bill and allow you discount, with pleasure. I am given to understand there will be a considerable dividend of Mr. C's effects : if an assignment of my claim on him would be any satisfaction to you, as a collateral security, I am willing to make it, or to do any thing else in my power to convince you that I mean to act honestly. I am, dear sir,

Your most obliged humble servant.

LETTER 70.

From a Merchant to a Tradesman, demanding money, and expressing disapprobation of his proceedings.

SIR,

Inclosed is your account, and I am sorry the statement of your mode of living which has been reported to me, is such, that I must in justice to myself, demand an immediate payment of the balance. It is not my disposition to act unkindly, or to distress any one ; but when I see people with my property in their hands, squandering away their substance in wanton extravagance, it becomes necessary for me to see a little to my affairs. Sir, I am informed you keep a horse and chaise, and country lodgings ; that you belong to clubs, and are a buck of fashion,

a Free and Easy, and I know not what else : in a word, that business is but a secondary concern with you ; nay, what is worse, I have heard it hinted that you game. I began the world, sir, with a greater capital than you, and with as good a connexion, in cheaper times, but I never kept a horse till I was unable to walk, and other men no richer than myself, kept their coach ; as to the sin and folly of wasting my time in debauchery and gaming, I was above it, for whatever you may think, a man is much more creditably employed in his business, than in sopping amongst mimics or stage players, or wasting money not his own, among sharpers.

Sir, you having married my kinswoman will not protect you against my taking the necessary steps to recover my money ; were you my own son I would not act otherwise, and am very sorry to have reason to cease subscribing myself

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 71.

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

For so I will persevere to call you, notwithstanding the unkindness of your last : you have lived long enough in the world to know, that when a man is fortunate, in any respect, there are envious persons to do him an injury ; I considered myself happy in the possession of your good opinion, and have found an enemy to supplant me. I will answer the charges you bring against me, one by one, and you will see at once how little they are founded in truth.

As to my keeping a horse and chaise, I have not rode in one, except yours, these three years, only once on this occasion; B who owed me a great deal of money, was absconding near the sea coast; I learnt where he was, and having got a writ out against him, went down to the place with my attorney, that it might be properly executed, and the chaise was his; so I only paid for the hire of the horse, which was, on the whole, a saving to me.

The state of my poor wife's health is such as to require country air, and I have taken a lodging for her near K. but this is so small an expense, I am persuaded, were you the most miserable economist in the world instead of a liberal minded man, you would think such a trifle ought not to be spared to preserve your cousin's health, and perhaps life.

As to clubs, I belong to none, except the lodge of Freemasons, to which you yourself introduced me, and you, who know all the members, can judge whether they are proper company or not; and with respect to gaming, I can declare I never played at any game of chance in my life, except whist and not that for more than a shilling a point.

But let assertion go for nothing between us, and facts speak for themselves; if you will favor me by eating a bit of dinner at my house tomorrow, we will go over my books together, and you will see by the regularity and general state of them, how I attend to business; and as it will be Saturday, on which day I generally go to K. if you will have the goodness to take your tea there, you will see what sumptuous country lodgings I have got.

If you insist on instant payment of the balance of your account, I must arrange matters accordingly; but though it will put me to some inconvenience, it will not efface

the memory of past kindness, nor prevent my acknowledging myself

Your much obliged friend,
And humble servant.

LETTER 72.

To a Person, who wants to borrow Money of another, without any claim but assurance.

SIR,

While I was out of town, I find you did me the favor of inquiring two or three times for me ; and among my letters I found one from you, desiring the loan of fifty dollars. You must certainly have mistaken me or yourself very much, to think we were enough known to each other for such a transaction. I was twice in your company ; I was delighted with your conversation, and you seemed as much pleased with mine. Should I answer the demands of every new acquaintance, I should soon want power to oblige my old friends, and even to serve myself. Surely, sir, a gentleman of your merit cannot be so little beloved as to be forced to seek new acquaintance, and to have no better friend than one of yesterday. Be this as it may, it does not at all suit my convenience to comply with your request, and therefore I must beg you to excuse,

Yours, &c.

LETTER 72.

Refusal to lend Money.

SIR,

I am exceedingly sorry that your request comes to me at a time, when I am so pressed by my own affairs, that I cannot with any convenience, comply with it. On any future opportunity, when I have money to spare, I shall be ready to oblige you. I hope, sir, you will therefore excuse

Your most humble servant.

LETTER 73.

Compliance to lend Money.

SIR,

I consider myself much obliged in the request you make me. I most cheerfully comply with it, and inclose a note for the requested sum payable at sight; and am not a little glad it is in my power to show you how much I am, sir,

Your faithful friend and servant.

LETTER 74.

From a Young Tradesman in distressed circumstances, to Another of age and experience.

DEAR FRIEND,

Your knowledge of the world, joined to your goodness of heart, and adorned with the most exalted piety, encourages me to seek your advice in a case of real dis-

treachery. You know I have not been full five years in business, and although the beginning promised fair, yet, alas ! I have been deceived. So does the sun shine upon us in the morning ; we take our pleasure in the fields for a few hours ; we are overtaken by a sudden storm, and the day concludes in thunder and lightning.

To speak in plain words, the many failures which have taken place in the commercial world, have brought me to the brink of temporal misery : two thirds of my property has been fraudulently taken from me, and I see no prospect before me, besides a prison or the insolvent law : the former is dreadful, the latter is disgraceful. Under such unhappy circumstances, how shall I act ? I have not been indolent or extravagant, but by an ill-timed and ill-placed confidence, I have been injured.

A good character is what I strove to preserve ; a good conscience is what I still enjoy : but the world is often deaf to all our pretensions to integrity. No sooner are we fallen than we are trodden under foot ; our misfortunes are considered as crimes ; we are despised by some, hated by others, pitied by few. Ah ! sir, when shall we learn to do as we would be done by ? When shall we love our neighbors as ourselves ? It is a great misfortune in trade, that every failure is considered as criminal, although the person accused is often innocent. I know you have abilities to give me advice. I know you have a tender, compassionate heart, and your charity will shine with a distinguished lustre, if displayed on the present melancholy occasion ; and by your advice, perhaps, my ruin may be prevented. I have sent this by my poor afflicted wife, and will wait on you as soon as I receive your orders for that purpose. In the mean time,

I am your sincere, though afflicted friend.

LETTER 75.

From a Tenant to a Landlord, excusing delay of payment.

SIR,

I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly, when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you, that from a variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand, and the favor shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by your

Obedient humble servant.

LETTER 76.

The Answer.

SIR,

It was never my intention to oppress you. I have had long trial of your honesty, and therefore you may rest perfectly satisfied concerning your present request. No demand shall be made upon you for rent, until it suits you to pay it; for I am well convinced you will not keep it from me any longer.

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER 77.

From an insolvent Debtor to his principal Creditor, requesting the acceptance of a Composition.

SIR,

When I first entered upon business, I little thought that ever I should be under the necessity of writing to you on such a subject as this ; but experience convinces me, that it is much better to acknowledge the state of my affairs to my creditors, than put them to the expense of taking out a commission of bankruptcy. To you, therefore, sir, as the person to whom I am principally indebted, do I address myself on this melancholy occasion, and must freely acknowledge that my affairs are very much perplexed. I have been these ten years past endeavoring to acquire something for myself in vain. The variety of different articles which I have been obliged to sell on credit, and the losses sustained thereby, always kept me in low circumstances ; and often when I paid you money, I had none left for the support of my family. If you will be pleased to employ any prudent person to examine my books, I doubt not but that you will be convinced, that the whole of my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of honesty ; and if it shall appear so to you, I must beg you will be pleased to call a meeting of the creditors, and lay it before them. I have not spent any more than was absolutely necessary for the support of my family, and every thing remaining shall be delivered up. When all this is done I hope you will accept of it, as it is not in my power to do any more ; and consider me as one whose misfortunes call for pity, not resentment.

I am, sir, your most humble servant.

LETTER 78.

The Answer.

SIR,

It is with the greatest concern I have perused your affecting letter ; and should consider myself as very cruel if I refused to comply with a request so reasonable as that made by you. I have employed a worthy person, a friend of mine, to examine your books, the result of which shall be immediately laid before the other creditors, and if it is as you represent, you need not be afraid of any harsh usage. I always considered you as a man of the greatest integrity, and am determined to lay down a plan for your future support. In the mean time, I have sent a trifle to defray your expenses, till the other affairs are settled, and am,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 79.

From a Tradesman to a Wholesale dealer, to delay payment
of a sum of money.

SIR,

My note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these six weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favor I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to leave any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer ; but as a proof of my sincerity, have sent enclosed three notes, subscribed by

persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER 80.

The Answer.

SIR,

It was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to communicate the news to me sooner, as your credit might be greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but that you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige

Your humble servant.

LETTER 81.

From a Young Man, who had an opportunity to set up in business, but destitute of money, to a Gentleman of reputed benevolence.

HONORED SIR,

When you look at the subscription, you will remember my serving you with goods, when I was appren-

tice to Mr. Carter, grocer, in New York. I have been a little above two years out of my time, which was spent in Mr. Carter's service, and the greatest part of my wages have been given to support an aged mother, confined to a sick bed. Mr. Carter died about ten days ago ; and, having no family, his executors, who are almost strangers to me, are going to let the store. My worthy master has left me by his will one thousand dollars, but that is no way sufficient to purchase the stock in trade ; nor will they give any longer credit than twelve months. Being well acquainted with the trade, as also with the customers, and having such a fair prospect of settling in business, I have presumed to lay it before you. I have often heard of your willingness to serve those under difficulties ; especially young people beginning the world. If you approve of this, and will advance so much on my bond, payable in a limited time, it shall be as safe as if in the hands of your banker. I shall be as frugal and industrious as possible, and the whole of my time shall be employed in the closest attention to the duties of my station, and shall acknowledge your kindness with gratitude as long as I live. I hope this will not give any offence ; and sir, if you give me leave I will wait on you with one of the executors, that you may hear their proposals. My character, as to honesty and fidelity, will bear the strictest inquiry, as is testified in my late master's will, and also by all with whom I have any dealings.

I am, honored sir,

Your obedient humble servant

LETTER 82.

The Gentleman's Answer.

SIR,

I have just received yours, and although I am indisposed with the gout, yet could not hesitate one moment in sending an answer. There is such an appearance of honesty, together with such an unaffected simplicity, runs through the whole of your letter, that I am strongly inclined to comply with your request, and happy shall I think myself if your honest endeavors are attended with the desired success. You need not give yourself the trouble of calling on me, lest it should interfere with your business. I will either call on you tomorrow, or send a friend to inquire into the particulars. In the mean time it gives me the greatest pleasure to hear that you have not been wanting in filial duty to an aged parent; and while you continue to act consistently with the principles and regulate your conduct by the practice of virtue, you will have great reason to expect the divine blessing on whatever you undertake. Trade is of a very precarious nature, and if not attended to with assiduity and regularity, generally involves those engaged in the greatest difficulty, if not ruin. Let me beg, therefore, that when you become a master, you will avoid mixing in company with those who spend their time and substance in the fashionable follies of the present age. Such practices are inconsistent with the business of a tradesman; and I am afraid that it is greatly owing to such, that we see the papers so often filled with the names of bankrupts, who, if they had attended with steadiness to the duties of that station in which Providence has placed them, might have

been a comfort to their families, and an honor to their different professions. But, although I have no fears concerning your integrity, yet the best of men cannot be too often reminded of their duty.

I am, your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 83.

From the Servant of a wholesale Dealer, to his Master in New York, giving an account of his Customers in the Country.

SIR,

I have visited several of the towns between this and New York, where any of your customers reside, and although they complain much of the decay of trade, yet their payments and orders have been as well as could reasonably be expected ; and indeed I think trade is beginning to revive. I have the pleasure to inform you, that, in the places where I have been, there is not any appearance of failing ; and the people have been so well pleased with your goods and fair dealing, that I have obtained many new orders. I have likewise received a dividend of twelve shillings in the pound of the effects of Mr. Cambrick, the linen draper at Hartford, who failed last year, and there is still something remaining ; so that upon the whole, your loss will not be so great as was at first expected. I have finished your business in this town, and set off tomorrow for New London, where I shall expect to hear from you, if you have any thing particular to transact before I return, and am, sir, with duty and respect,

Your obedient and faithful servant.

LETTER 84.

The Master's Answer.

MR. TRUEMAN,

I received yours, dated the 2d instant at New Haven, and am extremely glad to hear of your success. Indeed it has, as you observed, been greater than I expected. I am much pleased with your honest fidelity, in transacting my business with so much care and industry ; and as you are now at New London, I shall take this opportunity of intrusting you with an affair of importance. There is daily expected at that port, the schooner Rover, Captain Johnson, laden with sugar and indigo from Jamaica : and as I am informed the proprietors are desirous of disposing of the whole cargo by private contract. When you have examined the goods, I leave it to your own discretion to purchase the whole, as I think it must be an exceeding good bargain. If you have not money sufficient, give them an order on me for the remainder, payable at sight. I leave the whole to yourself, and shall expect to hear from you soon.

Yours, &c.

LETTER 85.

Recommending a Man Servant.

SIR,

The bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity these three years, but having a desire to settle in Philadelphia, he left my house about a week ago, and by a letter received from him this day, I find you are willing to

employ him on my recommendation ; and it is with the greatest pleasure that I comply with his request. His behaviour, while with me, was strictly honest, sober and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you. I have sent this enclosed in one to himself, and if you employ him I hope he will give satisfaction.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER 86.

The Answer.

SIR,

I received your obliging letter in recommendation of the young man, and in consequence of that have taken him into my family. I doubt not from what you say, of his giving satisfaction, and you may be assured of his being treated with humanity, and rewarded according to his merit.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER 87.

From a country Storekeeper, to his Friend in New York, desiring him to send him some goods.

SIR,

That friendship which we contracted in our youth, is not yet, I hope, abated, although Providence has placed us many miles distant from each other. I have heard of your success in New York, and it is with pleasure I can assure you that I am comfortably settled here. But you know that our returns are slow and profits small, and therefore,

however willing, I am not in circumstances sufficient to defray the expense of a journey to New York, in order to purchase goods at the best hand ; which has been attended with some loss, because a considerable expense. Relying, therefore, on your former friendship, I have presumed to solicit your assistance, to purchase from time to time, what goods I may happen to want from New York, for which an order shall be remitted on delivery. At present I have only sent for a few articles, as you will see by the enclosed. I doubt not of your getting them as good and cheap as possible ; and if there is any thing I can do to serve you in this part of the country, you may depend on its being executed with the utmost fidelity and despatch.

I am, sir, your sincere friend.

LETTER 88.

The Answer.

SIR,

Yours I received and am glad to hear of your being so comfortably settled. There is a pleasure in looking back to those youthful days we spent together in harmless amusements, and it gives me great pleasure to think that I have it in my power to be any way of service to my friend. The goods you ordered are sent in the Hudson Packet directed to you. They are as good and as cheap as any to be had in New York, and I hope you will be a considerable gainer. With respect to your kind proffer of service, I heartily thank you, and shall, as occasion requires, trouble you with something of that nature. In the mean time be sure to command me in every thing

wherein I can be of service to you, as it will give the greatest pleasure to

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 89.

From a country Store-keeper, to a Merchant in New York, complaining of the badness of his goods.

SIR,

When I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixed resolution to act with integrity and honor, expecting the same in return. I must indeed, confess that the goods you sent me for some time were as good as any I could purchase of another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now the case is quite different. The two last parcels you sent me are so bad that I dare not offer them to my customers. From what, sir, does this proceed? Have I ever been deficient in my payments? No, you dare not accuse me with any thing of that nature. However, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence, or shut up my store. You may choose which you please, and let me beg to have your answer per return of post, as I am in immediate want of these goods, and in danger of losing my customers by a delay. In so doing you will oblige,

Your well wisher.

LETTER 90.

The Answer.

SIR,

I received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear that the goods sent you are so bad. I know I had some such in my store, but was determined to sell them at a

low rate, without ever thinking of their being sent to any of my customers, particularly so valuable a correspondent as yourself. By some mistake my clerks have inadvertently sent them, for which I am extremely sorry ; but, in order to make you amends, I sent by this day's packet, those which I originally intended for you, at my own expense. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

LETTER 91.

From a Tradesman in distressed circumstances desiring a Letter of License.

SIR,

It is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you, and during that time you well know that my payments were regular, but, at present, am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled ; for that reason, sir, I have sent to you, desiring a letter of license for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my affairs to their satisfaction ; but if they will not comply with this, I am utterly ruined. Your answer is impatiently expected by

Your obedient humble servant.

LETTER 92.

The Answer.

SIR,

Yours I received, and am very sorry to hear of your distress. I have called a meeting of the creditors, and doubt not they will accede to your honorable proposal.

I am, sir, your real friend.

PART III.

ON LOVE, COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE.

LETTER 93.

From a Young Gentleman to a Lady with whom he is in Love.

MADAM,

I have three times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter; but my heart has often failed. I know not in what light it may be considered, only if I can form any notion of my own heart, from the impression made on it by your many amiable accomplishments, my happiness in this world will, in a great measure, depend on your answer. I am not precipitate, madam, nor would I desire your hand, if your heart did not accompany it. My circumstances are independent, my character hitherto unblemished, of which you shall have the most undoubted proof. You have already seen some of my relations at your aunt's in Read street, particularly my mother, with whom I now live. Your aunt will inform you concerning our family, and if it is to your satisfaction, I shall not only consider myself as extremely happy, but shall also make it the principal study of my future life to spend my days in the company of her whom

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I do prefer to all others in the world. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am,
Madam, your real admirer.

LETTER 94.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I received your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you I was a good deal surprised. Although I have seen and familiarly conversed with you at different times, yet I had not the most distant thoughts of your making proposals of such a nature. Some of your sex have often asserted that we are fond of flattery, and very much pleased with praise; I shall therefore suppose you one of that class, and excuse you for those encomiums bestowed upon me in your letter; but am afraid, was I to comply with your proposals, you would soon be convinced that the charms you mention, and seem to value so much, are merely exterior appearances, which like the summer's flower, will very soon fade, and all those mighty professions of love will end at last either in indifference, or, which is worse, disgust. You desire me to inquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You must excuse me when I tell you that I am obliged to decline making any such inquiry. However, as your behaviour when in company was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent with common decorum. My worthy guardian, Mr. Melvill, is now at his seat at Bloomingdale, and his conduct has been so much like that of a parent, that I do not choose

to take one step in an affair of such importance without both his consent and approbation. There is an appearance of sincerity runs through your letter; but there is one particular to which I have a very strong objection; you say that you live with your mother, yet you do not say that you have either communicated your sentiments to her or to your other relations. I must freely and honestly tell you that as I would not disoblige my own relations, neither would I, on any consideration, admit of any addresses contrary to the inclinations of yours. If you can clear up this to my satisfaction, I shall send you a more explicit answer, and am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

LETTER 95.

The Gentleman's Reply.

DEAR MADAM,

I return you a thousand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greatest pleasure I can clear up to your satisfaction the matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you, I communicated the affair to my two cousins; but had not courage enough to mention it to my mother; but that is now over; and nothing, she says, would give her greater pleasure than to see me married to a young lady of your amiable character; nay, so far is she from having any objection, that she would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not persuaded her against it, as she has been these three days afflicted with a severe cold, and I was afraid, that if she had ventured abroad so soon, it might be attended with dangerous consequences. But to convince you of my sincerity, she has sent the en-

closed, written with her own hand ; and whatever may be the contents, I solemnly assure you that I am totally ignorant, except that she told me it was in approbation of my suit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I shall then be able to explain things more particularly.

I am, dear madam,

Your real lover.

LETTER 96.

From the young gentleman's Mother to the young Lady.

DEAR MISS,

If you find any thing in these lines improperly written, you will candidly excuse it, as coming from the hands of a parent, in behalf of an only, beloved, and dutiful son.

My dear Charles has told me, that you have made such an impression on him, that he knows not how to be happy in any one else, and it gives me great happiness to find that he has placed his affections on so worthy an object. Indeed it has been my principal study to instruct him in the principles of our holy religion ; well knowing that those who do not fear God will never pay any regard to domestic duties. His father died when his son was only ten months old, and being deprived of the parent, all my consolation was that I had his image left in the son. I nursed him with all the tenderness possible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age, I sent him to a boarding school, and afterwards to college. Whilst he was prosecuting his studies, I daily recommended him to the care of that God whose eyes behold all his creatures, and will reward and punish accord-

ing to their merit. Ever since his return from Princeton, he has resided constantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connexions, has been equal to my utmost wishes. At present, my dear girl, I am in a very sickly condition, and, although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuse the indulgent partiality of a mother, when I tell you it is my real opinion you can never place your affection on a more worthy young man than my son. He is endowed with more real worth than thousands of others whom I have known; and I have been told of instances of his benevolence which he has industriously concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly consideration now upon my mind is to see him happily married, and then my whole attention shall be fixed on that place where I hope we shall all enjoy eternal felicity.

I am, dear Miss,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 97.

The Young Lady's Answer.

MADAM,

I will excuse the fondness of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours I had heard of the unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your son; so that I was no ways surprised at what you say concerning him. I do assure you, madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you before even nobility itself, and I think it must be my own fault if I ever repent calling you mother. I was going to say that you had

known but few pleasures in this life, to be deprived of your husband so soon, and the rest of your life spent under so many infirmities. But your letter convinceth me that you have felt more real pleasure in the practice of virtue and resignation to the Divine will, than ever can be had in any, nay, even the greatest temporal employments. I have sent enclosed a few lines to your son, to which I refer you for a more explicit answer, and am,

Madam, your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 98.

The Young Lady to the Young Gentleman.

SIR,

I received yours, together with one enclosed from your mother, and congratulate you on the happiness you have had in being brought up under so pious and indulgent a parent. I hope that her conduct will be a pattern for you to copy after, in the whole of your future life. It is virtue alone, sir, which can make you happy. With respect to myself, I freely acknowledge that I have not at present any reason to reject your offer, although I cannot give you a positive answer until I have first consulted with my guardian. Monday next I set out for his seat at Bloomingdale, whence you may be sure of hearing from me as soon as possible, and am,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 99.

From the Same.

SIR,

In my last I told you, that you should hear from me as soon as possible, and therefore I now sit down to fulfil my promise. I communicated your proposal to Mr. Melvill, who, after he had written to his correspondent in New York, told me as follows :

"Miss, I have inquired concerning the young gentleman, and the information I have received is such, that I not only approve of your choice, but must also confess, that, if I did not do every thing in my power to forward your union, I should be acting contrary to the request of your father when he lay on his death bed. You may," said he, "communicate this to your lover as soon as you please, and may every happiness attend you both in time and eternity."

And now, sir, have I not told you enough? Some, perhaps, might think too much; but I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practice if standing in the presence of my Maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable; I look for it, and shall be very unhappy if disappointed. But I will hope the best, and doubt not but the religious education bestowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate on the whole of your future conduct in life. You may, therefore, lay aside the tedious formality of courtship, and write to me as one with whom you mean to spend your time in this world.

Ever since my arrival here, my time has been spent in visiting the woods, the fields, and cottages, meditating on the unbounded goodness of the Almighty Creator. How

infinite is his wisdom ! How unbounded his liberality ! Every thing in nature conspires to exalt his praise, and acknowledge with gratitude their dependance upon him. But I will not tire you with such dull descriptions of real beauties. Present my sincere respects to your worthy mother. I hope she gets the better of her disorder, and be assured that I am,

Yours and hers with the greatest affection.

LETTER 100.

The Young Gentleman's Answer.

MY DEAR GIRL,

Is there any medium between pleasure and pain ? Can mourning and mirth be reconciled ? Will you believe my dear, that whilst I was reading your letter with the greatest pleasure, I was shedding tears for an affectionate parent ! Thus Divine Providence thinks proper to mix some gall with our portion in life. It is impossible for me to describe the variety of passions now struggling in my breast. Ten thousand blessings to my charmer on the one hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of two impossibilities ;—one of which I am obliged to struggle with, the other, thanks to you, is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honored mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort unless I could call you mine ; but I am now obliged to submit to the one whilst I have the pleasing prospect of being in possession of the other. Will my dear sympathise with me, or will she bear with human passions ? And although all my hope of temporal happiness is centred in you, yet I doubt not but you will excuse

my shedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent, which I am now going to commit to the tomb. My dear creature, were it possible for me to describe the many virtues of that worthy woman who is now no more, you would draw a veil over the partiality of filial duty. Her last words were these: "My dear child, I am now going to pay that debt imposed on the whole human race, in consequence of the disobedience of our first parents. You know what instructions I have given you from time to time; and let me beg of you to adhere to them so far as they are consistent with the will of God, revealed in his word. May you be happy in the possession of that young lady on whom you have placed your affections; but may both you and she remember, that real happiness is not to be found in this world; and you must consider your life in this world as merely a state of probation. To the Almighty God I commend you."

She was going on, when the thread of life was broken, and she was no more. Such was the last end of my dear mother, whose remains are to be interred this evening, and as soon as I can settle her affairs with her executors, I will, as it were, fly to meet you. God grant that our happiness in this life may be conducive toward promoting our everlasting felicity hereafter. I am, as before,

Yours while life remains.

LETTER 101.

From the Lady after Marriage, to an unmarried Cousin.

DEAR COUSIN,

I have now changed my name, and instead of liberty must subscribe wife. What an awkward expression, say

some ! How pleasing, say others ! But let that be as it may, I have been married to my Charles these three months, and I can freely acknowledge that I never knew happiness till now. To have a real friend to whom I can communicate my secrets, and who, on all occasions, is ready to sympathise with me, is what I never before experienced. All these benefits, my dear cousin, I have met with in my beloved husband. His principal care seems to be to do every thing possible to please me ; and is there not something called duty incumbent on me ? Perhaps you will laugh at the word duty, and say that it imports something like slavery ; but nothing is more false ; for even the life of a servant is as pleasant as any other, when he obeys from motives of love instead of fear. For my own part, my dear, I cannot say that I am unwilling to be obedient, and yet I am not commanded to be so by my husband. You have often spoken contemptuously of the marriage state, and I believe your reasons were that most of those you knew were unhappy ; but that is an erroneous way of judging. It was designed by the Almighty, that men and women should live together in a state of society, that they should become mutual helps to each other ; and if they are blessed with children to assist each other in giving them a virtuous education. Let me therefore beg that my dear cousin will no longer despise that state for which she was designed, and which is calculated to make her happy. But then, my dear, there are two sorts of men you must studiously avoid ; I mean misers and rakes. The first will take every opportunity of abridging your necessary expenses, and the second will leave you nothing for a subsistence. The first, by his penuriousness, will cause you to suffer from imaginary wants ; the second, by his prodigality, will make you a real beg-

gar. But your own good sense will point out the propriety of what I have mentioned. Let me beg that you will come and spend a few weeks with us; and if you have any taste for rural and domestic life, I doubt not but you will be pleased.

I am, your affectionate cousin.

LETTER 102.

From a young Merchant in New York, to a Widow Lady in the Country.

MADAM,

Ever since I saw you at the Springs, when I was on a journey to the north, my mind has been continually ruminating on your many accomplishments. And although it is possible this may be rejected, yet I can no longer conceal a passion which has preyed upon my spirits these six weeks. I have been settled in business about three years; my success has been equal to my expectations, and is likewise increasing. My family is respectable though not rich; and as to the disparity of our ages, a few years will not make any difference, where the affections are placed on so lovely an object. I can only say, madam, that I prefer you to all the young ladies I have seen, and if business continues to increase, I shall be greatly in want of one of your prudence, to manage my domestic affairs. Be assured, madam, that whatever time I can spare from the necessary duties of my profession, shall be devoted to your company, and every endeavor used to make your life both agreeable and happy. As you have relations in New York, they will give you every necessary information concerning my character and

circumstances, although I have not the pleasure of being known to them. If you will favor me with an answer to this, it will be ever esteemed a particular favor, and acknowledged with the sincerest respect, by

Your real admirer.

LETTER 103.

The Lady's Letter to her Brother, an Attorney, concerning the above.

DEAR BROTHER,

You know that in all affairs of importance I have constantly acted by your advice, as I am still determined to do ; and therefore have sent you enclosed the copy of a letter which I received by the post, from a young gentleman in New York, whom I have seen at the Springs. His behaviour here was polite without affectation, and an air of sincerity appeared in all he said. With respect to the subject he writes of, I will give you my own thoughts, and delay sending an answer until I have had your opinion.

I am at least a dozen years older than him, and possibly love, contracted where there is such difference in the ages of the parties, may terminate in want of respect on one side, and jealousy on the other. At present I am so pestered with rakes and coxcombs, that I would almost willingly give my hand to the first worthy person who offers. Indeed I have another reason for entering into the marriage state, and that is I would choose, as I advance in years, to have a friend to whom I might at all times be able to open my mind with freedom, and who would treat me with that tenderness which my sex enti-

ties me to. I have been a widow six years, and whatever others may say, I have found it attended with many inconveniences, and far from that pleasing life many are ready to imagine. But after all, I will be directed by you, as my only real friend to whom I can apply ; if you think proper you may inquire, and when I hear from you, I will send him an answer.

I am your affectionate sister.

LETTER 104.

The Brother's Answer.

DEAR SISTER,

I am glad to hear of your prudence in not being very hasty in an affair of so great importance, and upon which your happiness or misery in this world will inevitably depend. Your reasons against remaining any longer in a state of widowhood are what I much approve of, and it will give me great pleasure to promote your interest and happiness as far as I am able. I have inquired concerning Mr. Moreton, and every one gives him an excellent character. I have likewise conversed with him, and find him a very sensible young man. As to your objection concerning disparity of age, I do not think it has any great weight, and upon the whole I have but one reason against your union, and that is, that there is nothing more precarious than commerce, and the merchant who today has unlimited credit, may be tomorrow in the list of bankrupts. I do not urge this in order to prevent your happiness, but only that whilst you are free, you may take such measures as to secure a sufficiency against the worst. I would by no means dissuade you from complying with his

request, as he seems every way worthy of your choice, and I really think it may be for your mutual happiness. These dear sister, are my sentiments concerning this affair: but remember I leave it entirely to yourself, not doubting but you will proceed with the same prudence which you have heretofore shown.

I am, your affectionate brother.

P. S. I would advise you to write to the young man as soon as possible.

LETTER 105.

From the Lady to Mr. Moreton.

SIR,

I received your letter, and my reason for delaying an answer, was, that I wanted first to consult my brother, whose opinion I had by the post yesterday. I freely acknowledge that you are far from being disagreeable, and the advantage on your part with respect to accomplishments are, I think, superior to mine. But these are but small matters when compared with what is absolutely necessary to make the marriage state happy. I mean an union of minds. Neither of us have had many opportunities of conversing together, and when you had you did not mention any thing of this. I have no objection against marrying, were I assured of being no worse than at present; but there is such a variety of unforeseen accidents happening in the world, and all conspiring together to promote dissensions in families, that we can never be too careful how to fix our choice. I shall not, sir, from what I have seen of your behaviour, and heard of your character, have any objection against your request; but I con-

fess I am afraid you have been rather too precipitate in your choice, and although my person may have engaged your attention, yet I am afraid all those charms you so much extol are not sufficient to keep you loyal to the marriage vow. But I will hope the best, and believe you are as virtuous as you are represented; nor will I give my hand to any but you. In the mean time I shall be glad to hear that you continue your visits to my brother; you will find him one of the most worthy persons you ever conversed with, and much esteemed for his knowledge in the law. I have now given you leave to write as often as you please, as I hope all your letters will be interesting: and as to the time to be fixed for any thing else, I shall leave it entirely to be settled by yourself and my brother, and am, dear sir,

Yours, sincerely.

LETTER 106.

From a young Gentleman, in expectation of an estate from a penurious Uncle, to a young Lady of small fortune, desiring her to elope with him.

MY DEAR MARIA,

My uncle's laying his injunction upon me not to see you any more, has only served to add fuel to my passion. I cannot live without you, and if you persist in refusing to comply, I am miserable forever. I pay no regard to his threatenings, when put in competition with the love I have for you. Do not be afraid of poverty; if he should continue inexorable, I have still education sufficient to procure a genteel employment in one of the public offices, where I may rise to preferment. Therefore,

if ever you loved me, let me beg that you will not make me any longer unhappy. Let me intreat you by all that is dear, that you will comply with my request, and meet me at six on Sunday evening, at the back door of the garden, where a chaise will be ready. I will fly on the wings of love to my charmer, and be happy in her embraces forever.

I am your dear lover.

LETTER 107.

The Lady's prudent Answer.

SIR,

Though thoroughly conscious in this act I make a breach of those laws said to be laid down for lovers, especially such of our sex as would rather be celebrated for a romantic turn of mind, than for what is more preferable, a prudent decorum, yet I cannot but be persuaded, there may occur such a crisis, as may make it consistent with the strictest rules of honor and justice; which at least ought to be put in the balance, if not outweigh whatever custom may have prescribed. That such a crisis now exists, your letter, and former concurring testimonies, make manifest. For I have too high an opinion of your integrity to doubt their truth; and believe me when I assure you most solemnly, I place their validity to that account, and not to mistaken notions or consciousness of my own merit. No, sir, it is from a too sensible conviction of your own injurious error of your passion, I have been induced to commit this violence to my sex. I had almost made my sentiments to conjure you to desist, ere it be too late, in the pursuit of a passion, that cannot but

bring with it a train of inevitable miseries, since it must be attended with the violation of your duty to that relation whom you are bound to pay implicit obedience to, by nature and gratitude. I will not offend your delicacy, in urging those of interest and independency, though each consideration ought to have its prevalence, against making a sacrifice of it to an impetuous passion for one, whose single desert is, that she dreads your indigence more than she regrets that of the

Unfortunate.

LETTER 108.

From a young Officer to a Lady with whom he is in love.

DEAR SOPHIA,

When our regiment received orders to march from West Point, I was almost in a state of distraction. To be forced to leave her who is already in possession of my heart, and separated by such a distance, had almost induced me to give up my commission; nor have I any resource left but that of the pen. After a long and tedious march we arrived here, where we are to remain till next summer. But, alas! how insignificant are all the allurements of the place, and the gaiety of my fellow-officers, when compared with the pleasing moments spent in your company. How long, my dear, must I be unhappy? Will not your sympathising nature pity my distracted mind? How lamentable the thought, that whilst I am writing this, some more fortunate lover may be making his addresses to my charmer, and even obtaining an interest in her heart! But what am I saying?—Whither does my delirium drive me?—No, my dear girl, I know

the generosity of your nature ;—I dare not suspect your sincerity, and still believe you mine. The principal gentlemen in New York invited the officers of our regiment to a ball, and all but myself considered the entertainment as a very great honor, each danced with his partner as I was told. In order to avoid the company, without giving offence, I mounted guard for that day, and enjoyed myself, either thinking of you, or conversing with the soldiers.

According to my promise, I have sent enclosed to your father, and I doubt not of his being surprised, unless you have mentioned it to him. I am impatient for his answer as well as yours. Adieu, my charmer ; let me hear from you immediately.

I am yours forever.

LETTER 109.

The Officer's letter to the Lady's Father.

HONORED SIR,

The generosity which I experienced from you whilst our regiment was stationed at West Point, will ever lay me under the greatest obligations ; but, at present, I have something of more importance to communicate, upon which all my happiness or misery in this world depends, and your answer will either secure the one, or hasten the other.

The many amiable accomplishments of your beloved Sophia, stole insensibly on my heart, and I found myself passionately in love with her, before I was able to make a declaration of my sentiments, nor did I do it until the day we were ordered to march. I hope, therefore, you

will forgive my not mentioning it to you ; I was really so much agitated, as to be nearly unable to attend my duty. I doubt not but one of your sensibility knows what it is to be in love. Your daughter, I freely acknowledge, is adorned with so many virtues, that she is entitled to the best husband in America ; and although I dare not hope to merit that appellation, yet I will make it my constant study to promote her happiness.

I have often told you that my parents died whilst I was young, and left me to the care of an uncle lately returned from the East Indies, where he had acquired a considerable fortune. My inclination led me to the army, and my uncle had procured me a commission. Ever since he has treated me as his own son, and being a bachelor, has made a will in my favor. He is now a senator in Congress, and has given me leave to choose a wife for myself without any other qualifications than virtue. I have written to him concerning your daughter, and his answer is, that he shall consider me extremely happy in being connected with so worthy a family as yours. I hope you will not have any objection against my being in the army. It was originally my own choice, and I doubt not of rising in time to the command of a regiment.— There is a sort of reverential fear upon my mind, whilst I am writing to so worthy a person as the father of my beloved Sophia. Dear Sir, excuse my youth, and the violence of my passion. Let me beg your answer, and O ! let it contain your approbation.

I am, honored Sir,

Yours with the greatest respect.

LETTER 110.

The young Lady's Letter to her Lover.

DEAR WILLIAM,

Not more welcome is the appearance of an inn to a weary traveller, than your kind letter was to me. But how is it possible that you should harbour the least suspicion of my fidelity? Does my William imagine that I would suffer the addresses of any fop or coxcomb after I was bound in the most solemn manner, I mean by promise; and be assured I pay the same regard to my word as my oath. If there is ever an obstruction to our love, it must arise from yourself. My affections are too permanently fixed ever to be removed from the beloved object; and my happiness or misery will be in proportion to your conduct. The enclosed from my father will, I hope, be agreeable; I have not seen it, and therefore can only judge of its contents by the conversation last night at supper. When your letter was delivered, my honored father was extremely ill of a cold, so that I did not deliver it to him till next morning at breakfast; he retired to his closet to read it and at dinner told me he would deliver me an answer in the evening. Accordingly after supper, and the servants being retired, the best of parents spake as follows; "My dear child, from the principles of that education which you have received, I doubt not but you must be convinced that it is my duty to promote your interest as far as I am able, and how far my conduct as a father has been consistent with that rule, I appeal to yourself; your own conscience will witness, whether I have not at all times studied to promote your interest, and it is with pleasure that I now say, that your filial duty was

equal to my highest wishes. With respect to the subject of the letter you gave me this morning, I can only say, that I have no objection to your complying with the young gentleman's request, as I think it may be for your mutual happiness. Indeed, I had some suspicion of it before he left this place ; but being well convinced of his merit, I was almost assured no step of that nature would be taken without my consent. That you have, and even my approbation. May you both be as happy as I wish ! I desire no more." Here the good man stopped, tears hindered him from proceeding, and me from making a reply. A scene of tenderness ensued, which you may feel, although I cannot describe it. His own letter will convince you, and you may make what use of it you please.

I cannot conclude without mentioning your conduct at the New York ball. Was there none among so many beauties able to attract my William's notice ; and will he at all times prefer my company to that of the gay and the beautiful ? I will hope so, and happy shall I be if not disappointed. In hopes of hearing from you soon, I shall subscribe myself

Yours forever.

LETTER 111.

The Father's Answer to the young Gentleman.

MY DEAR YOUNG FRIEND,

Ever since I first had the pleasure of your conversation, I considered you as a young gentleman of real merit, who would not be guilty of an ungenerous action, and to that was owing not only the respect I always treat-

ed you with, but also the common indulgence to converse freely with my daughter. I can freely excuse your not communicating your sentiments to me before you left this place. Your ardour was somewhat precipitate, and, as you well observe, I know what it is to be in love. The account of your uncle and family I know to be true, for I met with that worthy person who is your benefactor a few days ago at the stage office in this city, and he confirms the truth of all you have written. My dear sir, if ever you live to be a father, you will know what I feel on the present occasion; a willingness to give her to you, from a firm persuasion of your merit; and anxiety for her preservation, from a conviction in my own mind, that there is nothing permanent in this world. However, sir, you have my free consent to marry my child, and may the Divine Providence be your guide in the whole of your progress through this life! My ill state of health serves as a monitor to inform you, that my time in this world will be but short; and there is nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see my dear Sophia happily settled, before I retire to the land of forgetfulness, *where the wicked cease from troubling, and where the weary are at rest*. How great, sir, is the charge which I commit to your care; the image of a beloved wife long since dead, and the hope of my declining years! Her education has been consistent with her rank in life, and her conduct truly virtuous. I have not the least doubt of her conjugal duty, and your felicity in acting conformable to the character of a husband. Upon that supposition I leave her entirely to you; and as soon as you can obtain leave from the colonel, I shall expect to see you at this place, to receive from my hands all that is dear to me in this

world. Your uncle has likewise promised to be here, so that all things are according to your professed wishes.

I am, sir, yours sincerely.

LETTER 112.

From a young Man just out of his Apprenticeship, to his Sweet-heart, in the neighborhood.

DEAR SALLY,

I have been long in love with you, but was afraid to tell you. When I go with you to the Theatre or Vauxhall Garden, I am almost like a fool, and altogether unfit for company. I think of you all day, and at night, I dream of my dear Sally. I am well settled in work, and my wages are eight dollars every week. You and I can live on that, and I shall bring it home untouched on Saturday evening. I will not go to any tavern, but as soon as my work is done, return home to my dearly beloved Sally. I hope, my dear, you will not be angry, for I am really in love. I cannot be happy unless you are mine. I was afraid to mention this to you, but if you will leave an answer at my lodgings, I will meet you next Sunday after dinner, at the Battery, when we will take a walk to Vauxhall and drink tea. How happy shall I be to hear from my charmer; but a thousand times more to think she will be mine.

I am, my dear, your real lover.

LETTER 113.

The Answer.

DEAR JACK,

I received your very kind letter, but I do not know what to say in answer. Although I would be glad to marry, yet you men are so deceiving, that there is no such thing as trusting you. There is Tom. Timber, the carpenter, and Jack Hammer, the smith, who have not been married above six months, and every night come home drunk, and beat their wives. What a miserable life is that, Jack, and how do I know but you may be as bad to me? How do I know but you, like them, may get drunk every night, and beat me black and blue before morning! I do assure you, Jack, if I thought that would be the case, I would scrub floors and scour saucepans as long as I live. But possibly you may not be so bad; for there is Will. Cooper, the brasier, and Peter Jackson the printer, who are both very happy with their wives; they are both home-bringing husbands, and have every day a hot joint of meat. I know not yet what I shall do, but as I like to walk to Vauxhall, I will meet you at the Battery, on Sunday after dinner, and then we will talk more of the matter.

I am, dear Jack,

your most humble servant.

LETTER 114.*

From the Gentleman.

MADAM,

It was a question among the stoics, whether the whole of human life afforded most pleasure or pain? For my own part, I have always wished to consider things in the fairest light, but I often find my resolution weakened: and when I think to act the philosopher, I feel myself nothing but a man. When my late wife died, about two years ago, I proposed making the tour of England, that by mixing with strangers, my thoughts might be led from fruitless reflections on the loss I had sustained: a loss which none but myself knew. It is true, it has been so far successful, that it has taught me two things; first resignation to the will of heaven; and, secondly, that I am still unhappy in the want of a female partner. The agreeable company at the house of your worthy brother, obliged me to spend more time at York than I at first intended; nor did I know, until I had proceeded some miles, that I should be obliged once more to return. In short, madam, I am a second time in love; and although you may be disposed to laugh, yet I assure you I am in real earnest; your own dear self is the object. But perhaps you will ask, how happens all this? I answer, that I cannot tell how it happens. But I am really fond of domestic life, and am once more resolved to alter my condition. I cannot flatter, and I think both you and I have lived long enough to judge for ourselves. There was some-

* The six following are genuine, and passed between a Gentleman and Lady in England some time ago, but were once before published.

what pleased me much in the prudent manner you conduct the affairs of your brother's house ; but, as he is on the point of being married, that employment will cease when the other event takes place. I did not hear that you was engaged by promise to any other ; and as you have heard something concerning my family, character, and circumstances, you are more able to judge whether my present proposal is for your interest. In case you have any objections to my having children, I can only say that they will be easily answered. I have told you before, that I have only two young daughters now at a boarding school, and I have settled each of their marriage portions, and the remainder is entirely for myself ; and, without being any real prejudice to my children, is more than sufficient for us both. As to the common objection against being a step mother, I think it may be easily answered, when I tell you, that my children will treat you with all manner of respect. I do not imagine you can esteem me the worse for loving my children ; I have too good an opinion of you to think so ; and, as for the odious appellations usually thrown out against step mothers, they can only be considered, by a lady of your sensibility, as the effect of prejudice, operating upon vulgar minds, occasioned by the conduct of some inhuman wretches, who are a disgrace to society, and who would have acted in the same manner had they been placed in any other station in life. Your own good sense will point out the propriety of what I say. From what I have written, you will be able to judge, whether or not the proposals I have now made are apparently for your real advantage. All that I desire is, to live in amity and friendship with the woman on whom I have placed my affections, as long as I am in this world. Every thing in my power will be ex-

erted to make you as happy as possible, as I think, if I am not mistaken, every part of your conduct will entitle you to deserve it. I hope you will not defer sending me an answer, as I shall wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am, madam,

Yours sincerely and affectionately.

LETTER 115.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I have just received your letter, and for my own part must say, that you have acted the philosopher extremely well. I thought that love letters had not usually been extracted from Seneca or Epictetus; but, why do I wonder, when even a lady now alive went through the drudgery of learning the Greek language, in order to acquire the honor of being the translator of the latter. However, she has got far enough, and I have not any intention of following her, but shall consider my lover's philosophical letter.

Whilst you remained at our house, I must acknowledge that your company was agreeable; and your assiduity to please arose from a consciousness of your merit as a gentleman, although at that time, neither my brother nor myself, had the most distant thoughts of ever hearing such a proposal as your letter contains. It is our common practice to entertain strangers in the same manner we did you, which is consistent with old English hospitality, and something like the conduct of the ancient patriarchs.

The proposal which you have sent me is of too serious a nature to be treated lightly ; it requires to be considered with the greatest attention ; especially as a wrong step of that sort not only destroys all hopes of temporal happiness, but, what is infinitely worse, often endangers that which is eternal. I doubt not but you have seen many fatal instances of this melancholy truth, *viz.* That those who were bound by the most solemn engagements to go hand in hand, through affluence and poverty, have often prevented the one, and hastened those afflictions inseparably connected with the other. The consideration of those things presents us with a glaring proof of the corruption of human nature in general, and particularly its most desirable state, pretended conjugal felicity. The causes from which unhappiness arises in families, are various ; and although I never was a wife, yet I have seen many fatal instances of their pernicious effects.

You yourself seem to be aware of this in the objections stated in your letter ; and although I have convincing proofs that your circumstances are consistent with your representation of them, yet the second objection is not so easily answered ; nor, indeed, have you done it to my own satisfaction. Your answers to the common objections made against step-mothers are altogether rational ; they are what reason will at all times dictate and prudence on every occasion require ; but you will excuse me if I tell you sincerely, that even in the opinion of the reflecting part of the world, the life of a step-mother is far more disagreeable than you endeavor to persuade me. All eyes are upon them, and even their virtues construed into faults. I acknowledge that it could never enter into the mind of a rational creature, I mean one that is really so, that a woman should tyrannize over two or three or-

phans, for no other reason, save only that their mother was their father's former wife. This would prove her guilty of three of the most odious crimes, capable of being committed in the conjugal state. First, inhumanity to the deceased mother; secondly, cruelty to the surviving children; and lastly, a total disrespect to her husband. For what woman would esteem the man, or what regard could she think he would have for her children, if he did not treat, or cause to be treated with tenderness, those who were born of a woman equally dear with herself? But you know, sir, that we live in the world; and few, I believe, would choose to have their lives rendered unhappy if they could possibly avoid it. Your character, circumstances, and accomplishments, might entitle you to a much better wife than me; but, I confess the above reasons weigh strong in my mind against such a connexion; and unless they are answered more to my satisfaction than what you have already done, I should choose to remain as I am. In the mean time, I shall be glad at all times to hear from you, and am,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 116.

The Gentleman's Reply.

DEAR MADAM,

I have always thought there was none more ready to condemn the conduct of others, than those who are most guilty themselves, and of this your letter is a most convincing proof. Do not be surprised, for I am really in earnest. You have accused me of acting the philosopher, whilst you seem much better acquainted with those

sages than myself. But pray, madam, is it any great fault to write a love letter in a serious strain? Or should every thing on that subject be only a jumble of incoherent nonsense? Should the lover divest himself of the man, and because he prefers a woman to the rest of her sex, must he act the part of a fool to obtain her? I dare venture to say you will answer in the negative. Your letter contains so many prudential reasons for refusing my offer, that I should be stupid indeed if I did not consider them as the result of a well informed judgment. All the objection I have to them is, that they appear too much grounded on popular censure. I believe you are well acquainted with the world, and you know that the best actions have been misrepresented, and the most amiable characters traduced. Nor has this been confined to any one station in life; it has diffused itself through them all; and, although its baleful influence has often rendered innocence miserable, yet the prudent will despise it with that contempt it so justly merits. Virtue is its own reward; and happiness

“———Deaf to folly’s call,
Attend the music of the mind.”

Whilst a woman of your good sense has the answers of a good conscience in approbation of your conduct, how insignificant must the envious censures of malice appear, when compared with real peace of mind. Indeed, I think I shall not be guilty of blasphemy when I call your refinement of sentiment, *false delicacy*. However, as I said before, I am really in earnest: and, if I have not formed an erroneous judgment, you are the only person I have conversed with, since I became a widower, with whom I think I can live happy. And will you, madam, be so cruel as to reject my suit? I do not think it is con-

sistent with your good nature ; and, although I think it is beneath a generous mind to purchase a wife, yet I shall be willing to make you a settlement adequate to your utmost wishes, besides a sufficiency for your children, if we should be blessed with any. Your answer to this is impatiently expected by

Your real admirer.

LETTER 117.

From the Lady, in Answer.

SIR,

I perused your letter, and begin to be afraid that I have tampered with you too long, to conceal the real sentiments of my mind from one so justly entitled to know them as you are.

My objections, I assure you, sir, were not the effect of levity, but arose from the most mature deliberation ; nor would I, on any account, impose on the man to whom I intended to give my hand, and consequently my heart. This would have been a crime, attended with more aggravated circumstances than any which you have mentioned, and less entitled to an excuse. Hypocrisy is the same under whatever character it appears ; and, the person who is guilty of it in the smallest matters, will be equally so in the greatest. Your answer to my objections are altogether satisfactory, and I am now convinced that I may now become your wife, and at the same time, at least a nominal mother to your children ; I say nominal, for although I should on all occasions consider myself obliged to act with humanity to your children as well as my own, yet I may be still named by the above appellation.

However, as your person, company and conversation are agreeable, and as your character stands unimpeached, I am almost inclined to try that life to which I have been hitherto a stranger. It is, I assure you, with diffidence, and if attended with any unfavorable circumstances, may possibly be more my fault than yours. We cannot foresee future events, and are therefore obliged to leave them to the direction of an unerring Providence. I shall therefore not detain you any longer, but only to inform you, that my brother was married yesterday to Miss Bright; may every happiness attend them both in time and eternity! You will receive a letter enclosed from him, and you may be assured that I have now not any objections against being connected with you for life. The time fixed for that period depends entirely upon your own choice and appointment, and I think you cannot reasonably desire more. All that I expect, nay, all that I desire, is only to be treated consistently with the professions you have already made. If so, I think I cannot fail of being as happy as is consistent with the state of affairs in this world, and I do not look for miracles. As you will doubtless be much hurried before you set out for London, one letter more will be sufficient till I see you; in the mean time, may you rest content and happy.

I am, yours truly.

LETTER 118.

The Brother's Letter.

SIR,

I know not of any gentleman who ever yet honored me with his company, for whom I have a greater regard

than yourself; and the agreeable hours we have spent together, cannot be equalled unless they are repeated. When I read your first letter to my sister, I considered your proposal of marriage as the highest honor that could be conferred on our family, and yet, without partiality, I firmly believe that the woman to whom you have paid your addresses has merit equal to any in the world. She returned from the boarding school about ten years ago, during which time she has superintended the affairs of my family, and conducted them with such prudence, as is seldom met with in one of her years. Many offers have been made to her, by fox hunters in our neighborhood, but their characters were so totally opposite to her sentiments, that she rejected them with the utmost disdain, although apparently beneficial. My sister, sir, has much more refined notions, than to pay any more regard to affluence, than what would procure her an independent subsistence, and too great a regard to her conscience, to sacrifice her peace of mind, to enjoy the greatest earthly grandeur. To use her own words, she considers riches as laying her under an additional obligation to act for the good of her fellow creatures, as a faithful steward of that Almighty Being, who has declared that he will exact a strict account from his creatures, in what manner they have used those gifts which his unbounded liberality has bestowed. Her leisure hours have been spent in reading; and when I have met with her in the garden or in the fields, she had constantly in her hands either Thompson, Milton, or Young, but most commonly the Bible. It may possibly occur to your thoughts that what I have said in commendation of a beloved sister, arises from a fraternal affection; but I do assure you, sir, that I could not help repeating her many accomplishments, were you an utter

stranger, and even a married man. A person even destitute of virtue and sensibility might remain ignorant of my sister's merits forever ; but, by one of your worth, I doubt not but they will be estimated by their real value. Light and darkness cannot dwell together, nor can those of opposite tempers ever be happy ; but where there is an intellectual as well as corporal union, nothing in this life can interrupt its rational enjoyment. But I had almost forgot that I was writing to one who is well acquainted with these things ; nor should I have enlarged so much, had not I regarded your friendship and interest on the one hand, and my sister's happiness on the other. Yet, not to detain you any longer, my consent for a happy union, is not only at your service, but, as I said before, I shall consider it as a very happy event ; and I have not the least doubt of your ever repenting of your choice. I have heard that secular affairs call for your attendance in London ; when those are settled, I shall be glad to hear from you, and also of my sister and you being happily joined in marriage. In the mean time she is at my house, where you may freely correspond, and am,

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 119.

From the Gentleman, after his arrival in London, to the Lady in the Country.

MY DEAR,

For so I must now call you ; I arrived here last night, and embrace this first opportunity of writing.

What a busy place is London ! What a variety of objects, strange faces, and what a continual hurry of busi-

ness! The citizens acquiring fortunes by trade, whilst the nobility and gentry are squandering away their estates left them by their ancestors; but such has always been the conduct of mankind in trading nations. One sows, another reaps, whilst a third part enjoys the fruit of their labor. For my own part, I am neither fond of gaiety nor solitude. In all things there is a medium, which ought to be preferred to extremes. A sudden elevation to affluence or grandeur, and a sudden fall from either, are equally dangerous: the one too often plunges the person into all sorts of immorality, whilst the effects of the other are most commonly despair. I would choose to spend three months in every year in London, and the remainder in the country. This, in my opinion, is a more rational scheme than the present mode of continually hurrying from place to place, without scarce ever relishing the pleasures of any. But I had almost forgot to whom I am writing. As soon as I have settled my affairs here, which will take up about three weeks, I intend going to Windsor, to visit my daughters at their boarding-school, and from thence hasten to your brother's; when I hope that union will take place which must terminate only with our lives. I have employed my attorney to draw up articles of a jointure for you, and which I shall bring along with me to be signed in the presence of your friends. I hope your brother and his wife are well. I received his excellent letter, and heartily thank him for the contents.

I am, my dear,

Yours sincerely and affectionately.

LETTER 120.

From a Lover to his Mistress, lately recovered from Sickness.

MY DEAR,

This day's post has brought me the joyful news of your happy recovery. The indispensable necessity I was under of attending my business at this place, hindered me from beholding on a sick bed, all that is dear to me in the world ; but I need not persuade you to believe this, as I hope you have had sufficient proofs of my fidelity ; and what I have suffered on account of your illness may be felt but not expressed. When I took the letter in my hand, I trembled, and possibly should not have had courage to open it had not the seal been red. To one oppressed with fear, the smallest matter yields a glimpse of hope. I opened the letter, and you may easily imagine what was my joy, when, instead of reading an account of your death, it contained the delightful news of your recovery, written by your father.

Ah ! thought I, my charmer is still weak, or she would not have employed another hand.

This led me to fear a relapse ; but I hope that God, whose great mercy has preserved you hitherto, will perfect your recovery. You are constantly in my thoughts, and I pray for you every day. That I may once more be happy in seeing you, I have sent for my brother to manage my business during my absence. I expect him here in about ten days, when nothing but sickness shall prevent my coming. You will receive by the coach a small parcel containing some of the newest patterns both of silks and laces, together with some other things. Such trifles are scarce worth mentioning ; but I hope you will accept

them as a testimony of my sincere love to her whom in a few months I hope to call my own. Present my duty to your honored parents, and believe me to be, with the greatest sincerity,

Your ever affectionate lover.

LETTER 121.

From a rich young Gentleman, to a beautiful young Lady with no Fortune.

MISS SOPHIA,

It is a general reflection against the manners of the present age, that marriage is only considered one of those methods by which avarice may be satisfied, and poverty averted ; that neither the character nor accomplishments of the woman are much regarded, her merit being estimated by the thousands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accusation is too true, and to that may be ascribed the many unhappy matches we daily meet with ; for how is it possible that those should ever have the same affection for each other, who were forced to comply with terms to which they had the utmost aversion, as if they had been allowed to consult their own inclinations and give their hands where they have engaged their hearts ? For my own part, I have been always determined to consult my inclination where there is the least appearance of happiness ; and having an easy independency, am not anxious about increasing it ; being well convinced that in all states the middle one is best, I mean neither poverty nor riches ; which leads me to the discovery of a passion for you, which I have long endeavored to conceal.

The opportunities which I have had of conversing with you at Mrs. B's, have at last convinced me that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have those qualifications necessary to adorn her sex, although adverse fortune has denied her money. I am sure that all those virtues necessary to make me happy in the marriage state, are centred in you, and whatever objection you may have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and under the endearing character of a husband, endeavor to supply your early loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possible, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am your affectionate lover.

LETTER 122.

The Young Lady's Answer.

SIR,

I received your letter yesterday, and gratitude for the generous proposal which you have made, obliges me to thank you heartily for the contents.

As I have no objections either to your person or character, you will give me leave to deal sincerely, and state those things which at present have great weight with me, and perhaps must ever remain unanswered, and hinder me from entering into that state against which I have not the least aversion.

You well know, at least I imagine so, that the proposal you have made me is a secret both to your relations and friends; and would you desire me to rush precipi-

tately into the marriage state, where I have the greatest reason to fear that I should be looked upon with contempt by those whom nature had connected me with ? I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband ; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution ? You know that I was left an orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of Mrs. B. must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune, and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Suppose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine, unless I had brought you something as an equivalent ; or, have I not great reason to fear that you yourself may consider me as under obligations inconsistent with the character of a wife ? I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and would consider myself happy could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg that you will endeavor to eradicate a passion, which, if nourished longer, may prove fatal to us both.

Yours, with great respect.

LETTER 123.

The Gentleman's Reply.

MY DEAR SOPHIA,

Was it not cruel to start so many objections ? Or could you suppose me capable of so base an action, as to

destroy your freedom and peace of mind ? Or do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another ? For God's sake do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues entitle you to much more than I am able to give ; but all that I have shall be yours. With respect to my relations, I have none to consult beside my mother and my uncle, and their consent, and even approbation, are already obtained. You have often heard my mother declare, that she preferred my happiness with a woman of virtue, to the greatest fortune ; and although I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my sentiments to her before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg you will lay aside all those unnecessary scruples which only serve to make one unhappy, who is already struggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love. It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none else can. I cannot enjoy one moment's rest till I have your answer, and then the happy time shall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy ; but your tender nature cannot be so cruel. Be mine, my dear, and I am yours forever. My servant shall wait for an answer to your sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centred in you.

Yours most affectionately.

LETTER 124.

The Lady's Rejoinder.

SIR,

I find when one of your sex forms a resolution, you are determined to go through, whatever be the event.

Your answer to my first objection I must confess is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the others ; but I find that if I must comply, I shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and the most cautious have been deceived. However, sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter to Mrs. B. as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has no objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I must give myself up to you as a poor friendless orphan, and shall endeavour to act consistent with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion ; and if you should so far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friends to complain to, but that God who is the "father of the fatherless." But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any such fears. I have left the time to your own appointment, and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER 125.

From a Lady to a Gentleman, complaining of Indifference.

SIR,

However light you may make of promises, yet I am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles ; and am likewise induced to believe that the man who voluntarily breaks a promise will not pay much regard to an oath ; and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct ? Did I not give you my promise to be

yours, and had you no other reason for soliciting than merely to gratify your vanity? A brutal gratification, indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman whose greatest fault was that she loved you. I say loved you, for it was in consequence of that passion I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct, sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your own solemn profession? Is it consistent with the character of a gentleman, first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterwards boast that he had discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes? Do not equivocate, I have two convincing proofs of your insincerity; I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benson, and am informed that you have proposed marriage to her. Whatever you may think, sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even of resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benson may become your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband;—nor can ever the superstructure be lasting which is built on such a slight foundation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience.

I am the injured.

LETTER 126.

The Gentleman's Reply.

MY DEAR MARIA,

For by that name I must still call you; has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity? My dear, I am not what you have represented. I am neither false nor per-

jured ; I never proposed marriage to Miss Benson—I never intended it ; and my sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, whom you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to take a walk in the fields with him and his sister ? Surely, prejudice itself cannot say so : but I am afraid you have been imposed upon by some designing person, who had private views and private ends to answer by such business. But whatever may have been the cause, I am entirely innocent ; and to convince you of my sincerity, beg that the day of marriage may be next week. My affections never so much as wandered from the dear object of my love ; in you are centred all my hopes of felicity ; with you only can I be happy. Keep me not in misery one moment longer, by entertaining groundless jealousies against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of your sex ; and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me beg your answer by my servant, which will make me either happy or miserable. I have sent a small parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept, and believe me, my dear,

Yours forever.

LETTER 127.

From a Young Officer, ordered to his regiment in Minorca, to a Young Lady whom he had courted.

MY DEAR,

I can scarce hold my pen. An order has just now arrived from the war office, by which I am obliged to set sail tomorrow for Minorca, without having the pleasure of seeing you. What unhappiness to us, and devastation

among the human race has the ambition of princes, and the perfidiousness of ministers occasioned ! Husbands obliged to leave their beloved wives, and their dear little children ; every relation is broken : and we may well say with Addison—

What havoc has ambition made !

But what is this to my present purpose ? Like all others in a state of distraction, I am obliged to write nonsense, if any thing can be so called where the name of my dear charmer is found. Did you know, my dear, what a struggle I have between love and duty, you would consider me as an object of compassion. I am bound by the most solemn oaths to be yours ; and at the same time duty obliges me to draw my sword in defence of the rights of my injured country ; and, whatever dangers may wait for me, I would meet them with the greatest cheerfulness, were I sure of possessing one place in your heart. But why do I say one, I must have all or none ; I cannot bear the most distant thought that you would place your affections on another. No, my dear, were that to happen, I would act the part of general Campbell at the fatal battle of Fontenoy, by rushing on the sword of the enemy to put an end to a weary existence. I should cheerfully lay down my life, which could be of small value, were I to be separated forever from you. But why do I doubt ? I know my charmer is as virtuous as she is beautiful, and that nothing but my own conduct can ever make her discard me.

But, is not absence death to those who love ? However, I have the pleasing reflection yet left, that whilst I am in a distant part of the world, attending my duty, I shall be remembered by her, whose prayers for my preservation will be acceptable to that God who loves virtue, who is

of purer eyes than to behold iniquity. Nothing in this world can ever be so dear to me as you are. Believe all I say, and I am happy. If I do any thing that may appear wrong, inform me of it, and it shall be my first care to confess my fault and amend. I desire your advice in every thing ; but, alas ! separation will render it difficult, though not impossible. Not having had time to settle with our agent, I have left an order for that purpose. Let me beg that you will visit my dear mother, she will esteem it as a respect shown to me. I have often told you what an excellent woman she is, and I am fully persuaded you will find her so ; yes, more so than I ever mentioned. We are to stop at Gibraltar, where I hope to have a letter from you. If it comes too late, the governor will forward it to Minorca. Once more, my dear, farewell ; continue to be mine, and all the vicissitudes and dangers of war will appear as trifles ; and, when peace shall again bless the nations, I will fly on the wings of love to the arms of my dearest angel, and spend with her the remainder of my days.

I am your sincere lover.

LETTER 128.

The Lady's Answer.

DEAR CHARLES,

If your hand could scarcely hold the pen, I am afraid this will appear unintelligible, being wet with tears from beginning to end. When your letter arrived, we were drinking tea, and my father reading the newspaper, wherein it was said, that all the officers in the army were ordered to join their regiments. I was a good deal alarm-

ed, but some hopes remained, till the fatal letter convinced me that my suspicions were but too well founded. Alas ! how vain are human expectations ? In the morning we dream of happiness, and before evening are really miserable. I was promising to myself, that one month would have joined our hands, and now we are separated, perhaps for years, if not forever. For, how do I know but the next post may bring me an account of your being killed in battle, and then farewell every thing in this world. My pleasing prospects will then vanish, and, although unmarried, will remain a widow till death. And is it possible you can doubt one moment of my sincerity ; or do you think, that those affections can ever be placed on another, which were first fixed on you, from a convincing proof of your accomplishments and merit ? No, my dear, my fidelity to you shall remain as unspotted as this paper, before it was blotted with ink, and bedewed with tears. I know not how others love, but my engagements are for eternity. You desire me to put you in mind of your duty. I know not of any faults, nor am I disposed to look for them. I doubt not, but the religious education you have received in your youth, will enable you to resist the strongest temptation ; and, like that everlasting honor to the army, Col. Gardner, although not afraid to fight, yet you will be afraid to sin. However terrifying it may be to meet death in the field, yet it is far more awful to appear before a just God whom we have offended by our iniquities. I have been reading Hume's History of England, who says, that at the battle of Hastings, when the Saxon monarchy was overthrown by the Normans, the latter, though under arms all night ; yet were fervent in their devotions, whilst the English, who thought themselves secure of victory, were spending their time in riot

and drunkenness. But alas! the next day exhibited a different scene. The Normans became conquerors, after killing many thousands of the enemy; and such are commonly the fatal effects of debauchery. There is not one body of people in the world accused of irreligion more than the military, and from the very nature of their employment, none are more obliged to practise every Christian duty. They see thousands of their fellow creatures hurried into eternity, nor do they know but the next may be themselves. My dear Charles, never be ashamed of religion. A consciousness of your integrity will inspire you with real courage in the day of battle; and if you should at last die in defence of the just rights of your country, the divine favor will be your comfort through eternity. In the mean time my prayers shall constantly be for your safety and preservation, and my earnest hopes fixed on your happy return.

I have obtained leave of my parents to reside with your mother during the summer, which will at least be some consolation to me in your absence. Let me hear from you as often as possible, but never doubt of my fidelity.—Consider me as already yours and I am satisfied. Farewell my dear, and may the wisdom of God direct you, and his providence be your guard, is the sincere prayer of her who prefers you before all the world.

LETTER 129.

From a Gentleman to a young Lady of a superior fortune.

MADAM,

I can no longer do so great violence to my inclinations, and injustice to your charms and merits, as to re-

tain within my own breast those sentiments of esteem and affection with which you have inspired me.

I should have hazarded this discovery much sooner, but was restrained by a dread of meeting censure for my presumption in aspiring to a lady, whom beauty, wit, and fortune, have conspired to raise so high above my reasonable expectations.

You have judgment enough both of your own good qualities, and the characters of those with whom you converse, to make a proper estimate of my sincerity on this occasion. I am above deceit, and have not therefore, at any period of our acquaintance, pretended to be a man of greater property than I am, which conduct I hope will tend to convince you of my general sincerity. Believe me, my dearest A——, were our circumstances reversed, I should hardly take to myself the credit of doing a generous action, in overlooking the consideration of wealth, and making you an unreserved tender of my hand and fortune. I shall await your answer in a state of unpleasant impatience, and therefore rely on your humanity not to keep me long in suspense.

I am, madam,

Your most humble servant.

LETTER 130.

The Answer.

SIR,

Giving you credit as I do, for an elevation of mind capable of the most generous sentiments, I cannot believe you guilty of the meanness of speculating on the heart of a lady, with a view to her property. Knowing

your accomplished manners, and cultivated understanding, I feel the greatest obligation to you for the polite and affectionate declaration contained in your letter. In an affair of so much importance, however, I must refer myself entirely to the discretion of my father. At the same time I must caution you against feeling hurt at minute inquiries, and resolute objections, which perhaps may be made; young people think too little of wealth, old ones, perhaps, too much; but I know my father's prudence and kindness so well, as to pledge myself to abide by his final decision, whatever pain it may cost me. Yet I advise you not to despair of success, as you will find a warm and zealous advocate in

Your sincere friend and humble servant.

LETTER 131.

From a Gentleman of some fortune, who had seen a Lady in public, to her Mother.

MADAM,

I shall be very happy if you are not altogether unacquainted with the name which is at the bottom of this letter, since that will prevent me the necessity of saying some things concerning myself which had better be heard from others. Hoping that it may be so, I shall not trouble you on that head; but only say, that I have the honor to be of a family not mean, and not wholly without a fortune.

I was yesterday, madam, at the rehearsal at St. Paul's, and have been informed, that a lady who commanded my attention there, has the happiness to be your daughter. It is on account of that lady that I now write to you; but I am aware you will say this is a rash and an idle man-

ner of attempting an acquaintance. I have always been of opinion that nothing deserves censure which is truly honorable and undisguised. I take the freedom to tell you, madam, that I believe she is worthy of a much better offer; but I am assured my happiness will depend upon her accepting or refusing this. In the first place I request to know whether the lady be engaged, for I am an entire stranger; and if she be not, I beg, that after having informed yourself who it is that wishes to be introduced to her, you will do me the favor of letting me be answered. I am very much an enemy, madam, to the usual nonsense upon these occasions; but it would be injustice to myself to conclude without saying that my mind will be very ill at ease until I know how this address is received. I have the honor to be, madam, with the greatest respect,

Your very obedient humble servant.

LETTER 132.

The Mother's Answer.

SIR,

The letter which you have done me the honor to write to me, speaks you a gentleman and a man of sense. I am sorry to acquaint you, that after such a prepossession in your favor, I am for more than one reason desirous to decline the offer you are pleased to make of an alliance in my family. My daughter is very dear to me; and I think she has cast an eye elsewhere: I think there is something indelicate and improper in this wild manner of engaging in an attachment, and in pleading in favor of it. I wish you had known my daughter more be-

fore you had spoke so much, and had met with me among my acquaintance to have mentioned it. I am convinced, sir, I do not think more of you than I may with justice, when I confess to you that I believe you would be more than an equal match for my daughter; for though she has (and suffer me, sir, although she is my child, to say it) great merit, her fortune, although not quite inconsiderable, is not great. You will see, sir, that I waver in my opinion upon this subject; but you must attribute it to the true cause; and believe that every thing which has, be it ever so remote, a tendency to my daughter's welfare, will make me very cautious of determining. To give you my final sense (at least what is final to me at present) I have not a thought of asking who it is that has thus favored us, nor would advise my daughter to remember it. I thank you, sir, in her name as well as my own, for the honor you intend us, and am, sir,

Your most obedient servant.

LETTER 133.

From a young Tradesman to a gentleman, desiring permission to visit his daughter.

SIR,

I flatter myself that the integrity of my intention will excuse the freedom of these few lines, whereby I am to acquaint you of the great regard and esteem I have for your daughter. I would not, sir, attempt any indirect address, that should have the least appearance of inconsistency with her duty to you, and my honorable views to her, choosing by your influence if I may approve myself to you worthy of that honor, to commend myself to her

approbation. You are not insensible, sir, by the credit I have hitherto preserved in the world, of my ability, by God's blessing, to make her happy. This the rather emboldens me to request the favor of an evening's conversation with you, at your first convenience; when I will more fully explain myself, as I earnestly hope, to your satisfaction, and take my encouragement or discouragement from your own mouth. I am, sir, in the mean time, with great respect,

Your humble servant.

LETTER 134.

From the same to the Young Lady by permission of the Father.

MISS,

I hope I shall stand excused in venturing to make known to your honored father, the great desire I have to be thought worthy of a relation to him. As he has not discouraged me in the hopes I have entertained, that I may possibly be not unacceptable to him, and to all your worthy family, I propose to do myself the honor of a visit to you next Monday. Though he has been so good as to promise to introduce me, and I make no doubt has acquainted you with it, I nevertheless give you the trouble of these lines, that I might not appear wanting in any outward demonstration of that inviolable respect with which I am, dear miss,

Your devoted humble servant.

LETTER 135.

From a Widow to a Young Man, rejecting his suit.

SIR,

The objections I have to make to the proposal contained in your letter are but few, but they demand some attention, and will, I believe, be rather difficult to be answered.

You are, by your account, two and twenty. I am, by mine, six and forty; you are too young to know the duties of a father; I have a son who is seventeen, and consequently too old to learn the duties of a son from one so little his senior. Thus much with respect to age. As to the little fortune I possess, I consider myself as merely a trustee for my children, and will not therefore impose on you, by acceding to the common report, that I am rich.—However, as you have borne a lieutenant's commission these three years, as you tell me, you may have reserved out of the profits of that a sufficient sum to obviate every difficulty on that head.

I will press these objects no farther; when you have convinced me that in point of age, fortune and morals you are such a person as I can, without reproach, take for a husband, and admit as a guardian of my children, I shall cease to think, as I now candidly confess I do, that motives far from honorable, or disinterested love, have influenced your application. Till that happens I must regret that an ill-timed effort of gallantry on your part, deprives me of the pleasure of subscribing myself

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 136.

From a Young Lady to a Gentleman that courted her, whom she could not esteem, but forced by her Parents to receive his visits.

SIR,

It is an exceedingly ill return that I make the respect you have for me, when I acknowledge to you, though the day of our marriage is appointed, that I am incapable of loving you. You may have observed in the long conversations we have had at those times that we were left together, that some secret hung upon my mind. I was obliged to an ambiguous behaviour, and durst not reveal myself further, because my mother, from a closet near where we sat, could hear our conversation. I have strict commands from both my parents to receive you, and am undone forever unless you will be so kind and generous as to refuse me. Consider, sir, the misery of bestowing yourself upon one who can have no prospect of happiness but from your death. This is a confession made perhaps with offensive sincerity; but that conduct is much to be preferred to a covered dislike, which could not but pall all the sweets of life, by imposing on you a companion that dotes and languishes for another. I will not go so far as to say, my passion for the gentleman whose wife I am by promise, would lead me to any thing criminal against your honor. I know it is bad enough to a man of your sense to expect nothing but forced civilities in return for tender endearments, and cold esteem for undeserved love. If you will on this occasion let reason take place of passion, I doubt not but fate has in store for you some worthier object on whom you can depend for a reciprocal affection, in recompense of your good-

ness to the only woman who could be insensible to your merit.

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant.

LETTER 137.

From a Young Lady in the country to her Father, acquainting him with an offer made to her of Marriage.

HONORED FATHER,

My duty teaches me to acquaint you with a circumstance which may become of importance to me.

A gentleman of this town, whose name is Smith, and by business a linen-draper, has made some overtures to my cousin Arnold, in the way of courtship to me. My cousin has brought him once or twice into my company as he has a high opinion of him and his circumstances. He has been set up three years; possesses a very good business, and lives in credit and fashion. He is about twenty-seven years old, and is very good looking in his person. He seems not to want sense or manners, and is come of a good family. He has opened his mind to me, and boasts how well he can maintain me; but I assure you sir, I have given him no encouragement, yet he resolves to persevere, and pretends extraordinary affection and esteem. I would not, sir, by any means, omit to acquaint you with the beginning of an affair; that would show a disobedience unworthy of your kind indulgence and affection. Pray give my humble duty to my honored mother, love to my brother and sister, and my best respects to all my friends.

I am your ever dutiful daughter.

LETTER 138.

The Answer.

DEAR POLLY,

I have received your letter of the first instant, relating to the addresses of Mr. Smith. I would advise you neither to encourage nor discourage his suit; for if on inquiry into his character and circumstances, I shall find that they are answerable to your cousin's good opinion of them and his own assurances, I know not but his suit may be worthy of attention. However, my dear girl, consider that men are deceitful, and always put the best side outwards. It may possibly, on the strict inquiry which the nature and importance of the case demands, come out far otherwise than it at present appears. Let me, therefore, advise you to act in this matter with great prudence, and that you make not yourself too cheap, for men are apt to slight what is too easily obtained. In the mean time he may be told, that you are entirely resolved to abide by my determination in an affair of this great importance. This will put him on applying to me, who, you need not doubt, will in this case, as in all others, study your good. Your mother gives her blessing to you, and joins in the advice you here receive from

Your affectionate father.

LETTER 139.

From Mr. Smith to the young Lady's Father.

SIR,

Though personally unknown to you, I take the liberty to declare the great value and affection I have for

your amiable daughter, whom I have had the honor to see at my friend's house. I should think myself entirely unworthy of her favor and your approbation, if I could have thought of influencing her resolution, but in obedience to your pleasure, as I should, on such a supposition, offer an injury likewise to that prudence in herself which I flatter myself is not the least of her amiable perfections. If I might have the honor of your countenance, sir, on this occasion, I would open myself and circumstances to you in that frank and honest manner, which should convince you of the sincerity of my affection for your daughter, and at the same time of the honorableness of my intentions. In the mean time I will in general, say, that I have been set up in my business, in the linen-drapery way, upwards of three years ; that I have a very good trade for the time ; and that I had a thousand dollars to begin with, which I have improved to fifteen hundred, as I am ready to make appear to your satisfaction ; that I am descended of a creditable family, have done nothing to stain my character, and that my trade is still further improveable as I shall, I hope, enlarge my capital. This, sir, I thought but honest and fair to acquaint you with, that you might know something of a person who sues you for your countenance, and that of your good lady, in an affair that I hope may one day prove the greatest happiness of my life, as it must be, if I can be blessed with that and your daughter's approbation. In hopes of which, and the favor of a line, I take the liberty to subscribe myself good sir,

Your obedient and humble servant.

LETTER 140.

From a Gentleman to a Lady whom he accuses of Inconstancy.

MADAM,

You will not, I presume, be surprised at a letter in the place of a visit from one who cannot but have reason to believe that it may find as ready a welcome as he would himself.

You should not suppose, if lovers have lost their sight, that their senses are all banished : and if I refuse to believe my eyes when they show me your inconstancy, you must not wonder that I cannot stop my ears against the accounts of it. Pray let us understand one another properly ; for I am afraid we are deceiving ourselves all this while. Am I, a person whom you esteem, whose fortune you do not despise, and whose pretensions you encourage ? Or am I a troublesome coxcomb, who fancy myself particularly received by a woman who only laughs at me ? If I am the latter, you treat me as I deserve, and I ought to join with you in saying I deserve it. But if it be otherwise, and you receive me, as I think you do, as a person you intend to marry, for it is best to be plain on those occasions, pray tell me what is the meaning of that universal coquetry in public, where every fool flatters you, and you are pleased with the meanest of them ? And what can be the meaning of your showing so much attention to Mr. Marlow, which I am told you always do when I am not in company ? Both of us, madam, you cannot think of ; and I should be sorry to imagine, that when I had given you my heart so entirely, I shared yours with any other man.

I have said a great deal too much to you, and yet I am tempted to say more ; but I shall be silent. I beg you will answer this, and I think I have a right to expect that you will do it generously and fairly. Do not mistake what is the distraction of my heart, for want of respect towards you. While I am writing thus, I dote on you, but I cannot bear to be deceived where all my happiness is centred.

Your most unhappy.

LETTER 141.

The Lady's Answer.

SIR,

Did I not make all the allowance you desire in the end of your letter, I should not answer you at all. But although I am really unhappy to find you are so, and the more so to find myself to be the occasion, I can hardly impute the unkindness and incivility of your letter to the single cause you would have me. However as I would not be suspected of any thing that should justify such treatment from you, I think it necessary to inform you that what you have heard has no more foundation than what you have seen ; however, I wonder that others' eyes should not be as easily alarmed as yours ; for instead of being blind, believe me, sir, you see more than there is to be seen. Perhaps, however, their sight is as much sharpened by their unprovoked malice, as yours by undeserved suspicion.

Whatever may be the end of this dispute, for I do not think so lightly of lover's quarrels as many do, I think it proper to inform you, that I never have thought favorably

of any one but yourself; and I shall add, that if the faults of your temper, which I once little suspected, should make me fear you too much to marry, you will not see me in that state with any other, nor courted by any in the world.

I did not know that the gaiety of my temper gave you uneasiness; and you ought to have told me of it with less severity. If I am particular in it, I am afraid it is a fault in my natural disposition; but I would have taken some pains to have got the better of that, if I had known it was disagreeable to you. I ought to resent this treatment more than I do, but do not insult my weakness on that head; for a fault of that kind would want the excuse this has for my pardon; and might not be so easily overlooked, though I could wish to do it. I should say that I would not see you today, but you have an advocate that pleads for you much better than you do for yourself. I desire you will first carefully look over this letter, for my whole heart is in it, and then come to me.

Yours, &c.

LETTER 142.

From a Father to his Daughters on Love and Friendship.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

The luxury and dissipation which prevail in genteel life, as it corrupts the heart in many respects, so it renders it incapable of warm, sincere, and steady friendship. A happy choice of friends will be of the utmost consequence to you, as they may assist you with their advice and good offices. But the immediate gratification, which is afforded to a warm, open and ingenuous heart, is

of itself a sufficient motive to court it. In the choice of your friends, have your principal regard to goodness of heart and fidelity. If they also possess taste and genius that will make them still more agreeable and useful companions. You have particular reason to place confidence in those who have shown affection for you in your early days, when you were incapable of making them any return. This is an obligation for which you cannot be too grateful. If you have the good fortune to meet with any who deserve the name of friends, unbosom yourself with the utmost confidence. It is one of the world's maxims never to trust any person with a secret, the discovery of which could give any pain; but it is the maxim of a little mind and a cold heart, unless where it is the effect of frequent disappointments and bad usage. An open temper, if restrained but by tolerable prudence, will make you on the whole much happier than a reserved, suspicious one, although you may sometimes suffer by it. Coldness and distrust are the too certain consequences of age and experience; but they are unhappy and unpleasant feelings, and it is unnecessary to anticipate them before their time.

But however open you may be in talking of your own affairs, never discover the secrets of one friend to another. These are sacred deposits, which do not belong to you, nor have you any right to make use of them.

There is another case in which I suspect it is proper to be secret, not so much from motives of prudence as delicacy; I mean in love matters. Though a woman has no reason to be ashamed of an attachment to a man of merit, yet nature, whose authority is superior to philosophy, has annexed a sense of shame to it. It is even long before a woman of delicacy dare avow to her own heart

that she loves ; and when all the subterfuges of ingenuity to conceal it from herself fail, she feels violence done both to her pride and to her modesty. This, I should imagine, must be always the case where she is not sure of a return to her attachment. In such a situation to lay the heart open to any person whatever, does not appear to me consistent with the perfection of female delicacy. But perhaps I am in the wrong. At the same time I must tell you, that in point of prudence, it concerns you to attend well to the consequences of such a discovery. These secrets, however important in your own estimation, may appear very trifling to your friend, who possibly will not enter into your feelings, but may rather consider them as a subject of pleasantry. For this reason, love secrets are of all others the worst kept. But the consequences to you may be very serious, as no man of spirit and delicacy ever valued a heart hackneyed in the ways of love. If therefore, you must have a friend to pour out your heart to, be sure of her honor and secrecy. Let her not be a married woman, especially if she lives happily with her husband. There are certain unguarded moments in which such a woman, though the best and worthiest of her sex, may let hints escape, which, at other times, or to any other person than her husband, she would be incapable of ; nor will a husband, in this case, feel himself under the same obligations of secrecy and honor, as if you had put your confidence originally in himself, especially on a subject which the world is apt to treat so lightly.

If all other circumstances are equal, there are obvious advantages in your making friends of your brothers and sisters. The ties of blood, and your being so much united in one common interest, form an additional bond of union to your friendship. If your brothers should have

the good fortune to have hearts susceptible of friendship, to possess truth, honor, sense, and delicacy of sentiment, they are the fittest and most unexceptionable confidants. By placing confidence in them, you will receive every advantage which you could hope for from the friendship of men, without any of the inconveniences that attend such connexions with our sex.

Beware of making confidants of your servants. Dignity, not properly understood, very readily degenerates into pride, which enters into no friendships because it cannot bear an equal; and is so fond of flattery as to grasp at it even from servants and dependants. The most intimate confidants, therefore, of proud people, are valet-de-chambres and waiting women. Show the utmost humanity to your servants; make their situation as comfortable to them as possible; but if you make them your confidants you spoil them, and debase yourselves.

Never allow any person under the pretended sanction of friendship, to be so familiar as to lose a proper respect for you. Never allow them to tease you on any subject that is disagreeable, or where you have once taken your resolution. Many will tell you that this is inconsistent with the freedom which friendship allows, but a certain respect is necessary in friendship as well as in love: without it, you may be liked as a child, but will never be loved as an equal. The temper and disposition of the heart, in your sex, make you enter more readily into friendships than men. Your natural propensity to it is so strong, that you often run into intimacies which you soon have sufficient cause to repent of; and this makes your friendships so very fluctuating.

Another great obstacle to the sincerity, as well as steadiness of your friendships, is the great clashing of

your interests in the pursuits of love, ambition, or vanity. For these reasons it would appear at first sight more eligible for you to contract your friendships with the men. Among other obvious advantages of an easy intercourse between the two sexes, it occasions an emulation and exertion in each to excel and be agreeable: hence their respective excellencies are mutually communicated and blended. As their interests in no degree interfere, there can be no foundation for jealousy or suspicion of rivalship. The friendship of a man for a woman is always blended with a tenderness which he never feels for one of his own sex, even where love is in no degree concerned. Besides, we are conscious of a natural title you have to our protection and good offices; and therefore we feel an additional obligation of honor to serve you, and to observe an inviolable secrecy, whenever you confide in us. But apply these observations with great caution. Thousands of women of the best hearts and finest talents have been ruined by men, who approached them under the specious name of friendship. But, supposing a man to have the most undoubted honor, yet his friendship to a woman is so near akin to love, that if she be very agreeable in her person, she will probably very soon find a lover where she only wishes to meet a friend. Let me here, however, warn you against that weakness so common among vain women, the imagination, that every man who takes particular notice of you is a lover. Nothing can expose you more to ridicule, than the taking up a man on the suspicion of his being your lover, who, perhaps, never once thought of you in that view; thus giving yourselves those airs so common among silly women on such occasions.

I am, &c.

LETTER 143.

From the same to the same, on the foregoing subject.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

There is a kind of unmeaning gallantry much practiced by some men, which if you have any discernment, you will really find very harmless. Men of this sort will attend you to public places, and be useful to you by a number of little observances, which those of a superior class do not so well understand, or have not leisure to regard, or perhaps are too proud to submit to. Look on the compliments of such men as words of course, which they repeat to every agreeable woman of their acquaintance. There is a familiarity they are apt to assume, which a proper dignity in your behaviour will be easily able to check.

There is a different species of men, whom you may like as agreeable companions, men of worth, taste, and genius, whose conversation, in some respects, may be superior to what you generally meet with among those of your own sex. It will be foolish in you to deprive yourself of a useful and agreeable acquaintance, merely because idle people say he is your lover. Such a man may like your company, without having any design upon your person. People whose sentiments, and particularly whose taste correspond, naturally like to associate together, although neither of them have the most distant view of any further connexion. But, as this similarity of minds often gives rise to a more tender attachment than friendship, it will be proper to keep a watchful eye over yourselves, lest your hearts become too far engaged before you are aware of it.

At the same time, I do not think that your sex, at least in this part of the world, have much of that sensibility, which disposes to such attachments. What is commonly called love among you is rather gratitude, and partiality to the man who prefers you to the rest of your sex; and such a man you often marry, with little either of personal esteem or affection. Indeed, without an unusual share of natural sensibility, and a very peculiar good fortune, a woman in this country has very little probability of marrying for love. It is a maxim laid down among you, and a very prudent one it is, that love is not to begin on your part, but is to be the consequence of our attachment to you. Now, supposing a woman to have sense and taste, she will not find many men to whom she can possibly be supposed to bear any considerable share of esteem. Among these few, it is a very great chance if any of them distinguishes her particularly. Love, at least with us, is exceedingly capricious, and will not always fix where reason says it should. But supposing one of them should become particularly attached to her, it is still extremely improbable that he should be the man in the world her heart most approved of.

As, therefore, nature has not given you that unlimited range in your choice which we enjoy, she has wisely and benevolently assigned to you a greater flexibility of taste on this subject. Some agreeable qualities recommend a gentleman to good liking and friendship. In the course of his acquaintance he contracts an attachment to you. When you perceive it, it excites your gratitude; this gratitude rises into a preference, and this preference perhaps at last advances to some degree of attachment, especially if it meets with crosses and difficulties; for these and a state of suspense, are very great incitements to at-

tachment, and are the food of love in both sexes. If attachment was not excited in your sex in this manner, there is not one in a million of you that would ever marry with any degree of love. A man of taste and delicacy marries a woman, because he loves her more than any other. A woman of equal taste and delicacy marries him because she esteems him, and because he gives her that preference. But, if a man unfortunately becomes attached to a woman, whose heart is secretly pre-engaged, his attachment, instead of obtaining a suitable return, is particularly offensive, and if he persist to tease her, makes himself equally the object of her scorn and aversion.

The effects of love among men are diversified by their different tempers. An artful man may counterfeit every one of them so easily as to impose on a young girl of an open, generous and feeling heart, if she is not extremely on her guard. The finest parts in such a girl may not always prove sufficient for her security. The dark and crooked paths of cunning are unsearchable and inconceivable to an honorable and elevated mind.

The following, I apprehend, are the most genuine effects of an honorable passion among the men, and the most difficult to counterfeit. A man of delicacy often betrays his passion by his too great anxiety to conceal it, especially if he has little hopes of being fortunate.

True love, in all its stages, seeks concealment, and never expects success. It renders a man not only respectful, but timid in the highest degree, in his behaviour to the woman he loves. To conceal the awe he stands in of her, he may sometimes affect pleasantry, but it sits awkwardly on him, and he quickly relapses into seriousness, if not into dullness. He magnifies all her

real perfections in his imagination, and is either blind to her failings, or converts them into real beauties. Like a person conscious of guilt, he is jealous that every eye observes him ; and to avoid this he shuns all the little observances of common gallantry. His heart and his character will be improved in every respect by his attachment. His manner will become more gentle ; and his conversation more agreeable ; but diffidence and embarrassment will always make him appear to disadvantage in the company of his mistress. If the fascination continues long, it will totally depress his spirit, and extinguish every active, vigorous, and manly principle of his mind.

When you observe in a gentleman's behaviour these marks which I have described above, reflect seriously what you are to do. If his attachment is agreeable to you, I leave you to do as nature, good sense, and delicacy shall direct you. If you love him, let me advise you never to discover to him the full extent of your love, no, not although you marry him. That sufficiently shows your preference, which is all he is entitled to know. If he has delicacy, he will ask for no stronger proof of your affection for your sake ; if he has sense, he will not ask it for his own. This is an unpleasant truth, but I thought it my duty to let you know it. Violent love cannot subsist, at least cannot be expressed long together on both sides : Otherwise the certain consequence, however concealed, is satiety and disgust.

My zeal for your welfare has excited me to throw together these few thoughts, which I flatter myself will sink deep into your memory, and be of some use to you, at the time you stand most in need of assistance.

I remain, yours affectionately, &c.

LETTER 144.

From a Father to his Daughters, on Courtship and Coquetish Behaviour.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

In my last, I laid before you my thoughts on love and friendship, and now proceed to consider some other particulars very essential to your happiness. If you see evident proofs of a gentleman's attachment, and are determined to shut your heart against him, as you ever hope to be used with generosity by the person who shall engage your own heart, treat him honorably and humanely. Do not let him linger in a miserable suspense, but be anxious to let him know your sentiments with regard to him.

However people's hearts may deceive them, there is scarcely a person that can love for any time, without at least some distant hope of success. If you really wish to undeceive a lover, you may do it in a variety of ways: there is a certain species of familiarity in your behaviour, which may satisfy him, if he has any discernment left, that he has nothing to hope for. But perhaps your particular temper may not permit of this—You may easily show that you want to avoid his company; but if he is a man whose friendship you wish to preserve, you may not choose this method, because then you lose him in every capacity. You may get a common friend to explain matters to him, or fall on many other devices, if you are seriously anxious to put him out of suspense.

But, if you are resolved against every such method, at least do not shun opportunities of letting him explain himself. If you do this, you act barbarously and unjust-

ly. If he brings you to an explanation, give him a pe-
like, but resolute and decisive answer. In whatever way
you convey your sentiments to him, if he is a man of
spirit and delicacy, he will give you no farther trouble,
nor apply to your friends for their intercession. This
last is a method of courtship which every man of spirit
will disdain. He never will whine or sue for your pity.
That would mortify almost as much as your scorn. In
short, you may break such a heart, but you can never
bend it. Great pride always accompanies delicacy, how-
ever concealed under the appearance of the utmost gen-
tleness and modesty; and is the passion of all others the
most difficult to conquer.

There is a case where a woman may coquette justifi-
ably to the utmost verge which her conscience will allow.
It is where a gentleman purposely declines to make his
addresses, till such time as he thinks himself perfectly
sure of her consent. This at bottom, is intended to force
a woman to give up the undoubted privilege of her sex,
the privilege of refusing it; it is intended to force her
to explain herself, in effect, before the gentleman designs
to do it, and by this means to oblige her to violate the
modesty and delicacy of her sex, and to invert the clear-
est order of nature. All this sacrifice is proposed to be
made, merely to gratify a most despicable vanity in a
man, who would degrade the very woman whom he
wishes to make his wife.

It is of great importance to distinguish, whether a gen-
tleman who has the appearance of being your lover, de-
lays to speak explicitly, from the motive I have mention-
ed, or from a diffidence inseparable from the attach-
ment. In the one case you can scarcely use him too
ill; in the other, you ought to use him with great kind-

ness: and the greatest kindness you can show him, if you are determined not to listen to his addresses, is to let him know it as soon as possible.

I know the many excuses with which women endeavor to justify themselves to the world and to their own consciences, when they act otherwise. Sometimes they plead ignorance, or at least uncertainty of the gentleman's real sentiments. That sometimes may be the case; sometimes they plead the decorum of their sex, which enjoins an equal behaviour to all men, and forbids them to consider any man as a lover until he has directly told them so. Perhaps few women carry their ideas of female delicacy and decorum so far as I do. But I must say you are not entitled to plead the obligation of these virtues, in opposition to the superior ones of gratitude, justice, and humanity. The man is entitled to all these who prefers you to all the rest of your sex, and perhaps whose greatest weakness is that very preference. The truth of the matter is, vanity and the love of admiration is so prevailing a passion amongst you, that you may be considered to make a very great sacrifice, whenever you give up a lover, till after the art of coquetry fails to keep him, or till he forces you to an explanation. You can be fond of the love, when you are indifferent to, or even despise the lover. But the deepest and most artful coquetry is employed by women of superior taste and sense, to engage and fix the heart of a man whom the world and whom they themselves esteem, although they are firmly determined never to marry him. But his conversation amuses them, and his attachment is the highest gratification to their vanity; nay, they can sometimes be gratified with the utter ruin of his fortune, fame and happiness. I am very certain I do not think so of all

your sex ; I know many of them have principles, have generosity and dignity of soul, that elevates them above the worthless vanity I have been speaking of.

Such a woman, I am persuaded, may always convert a lover, if she cannot give him her affections, into a warm and steady friend, provided he is a man of sense, resolution, and candour. If she explains herself to him with a generous openness and freedom, he must feel the stroke as a man ; but he will likewise bear it as a man ; what he suffers he will suffer in silence. Every sentiment of esteem will remain ; but love, though it requires very little food, and is easily surfeited with too much, yet it requires some. He will view her in the light of a married woman ; and though passion subsides, yet a man of a candid and generous heart always retains a tenderness for a woman he has once loved, and who has used him well, beyond what he feels for any other of her sex.

If he has not confided his own secret to any body, he has an undoubted title to ask you not to divulge it. If a woman chooses to trust any of her companions with her own unfortunate attachments, she may, as it is her affair alone ; but, if she has any generosity or gratitude, she will not betray a secret which does not belong to her.

I am, &c.

LETTER 145.

From the same to the same, on the foregoing subject.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

I have insisted the more particularly on the subject of courtship, because it may most readily happen to you at that early period of life, when you can have lit-

the experience or knowledge of the world, when your passions are warm, and your judgments not arrived at such full maturity as to be able to correct them—I wish you to possess such high principles of honor and generosity, as will render you incapable of deceiving, and at the same time to possess that acute discernment which may secure you against being deceived.

Male coquetry is much more inexcusable than female, as well as more pernicious ; but it is rare in this country. Very few men will give themselves the trouble to gain or retain any woman's affections, unless they have views in them either of an honorable or dishonorable kind. Men employed in the pursuits of business, ambition, and pleasure, will not give themselves the trouble to engage a woman's affections, merely from the vanity of conquest, and of triumphing over the heart of an innocent and defenceless girl. Besides, people never value much what is entirely in their power. A man of parts, sentiment, and address, if he lays aside all regard to truth and humanity, may engage the hearts of fifty women at the same time ; and may likewise conduct his coquetry with so much art, as to put it out of the power of any of them to specify a single expression that could be said to be directly expressive of love. This ambiguity of behaviour, this art of keeping one in suspense, is the great art of coquetry in both sexes. It is the more cruel in us, because we can carry it to what length we please, and continue it as long as we please, without your being so much at liberty as to complain or expostulate : whereas we can break our chain, and force you to explain, whenever we become impatient of our situation.

A woman, in this country, may easily prevent the first impressions of love, and every motive of prudence and

delicacy should make her guard her heart against them, till such time as she has received the most convincing proofs of the attachment of a man of such merit, as will justify a reciprocal regard. Your hearts indeed may be shut inflexibly and permanently against all the merit a man can possess. That may be your misfortune, but cannot be your fault. In such a situation, you would be equally unjust to yourself and to your lover, if you gave him your hand, when your heart revolted against him. But miserable will be your fate, if you allow an attachment to steal on you before you are sure of a return; or what is infinitely worse, where are wanting those qualities which alone can insure happiness in a married state.

I know nothing that renders a woman more despicable than her thinking it essential to happiness to be married! Besides the gross indelicacy of the sentiment, it is a false one, as thousands of women have experienced. But, if it was true, the belief that it was so, and the consequent impatience to be married, is the most effectual way to prevent it.

You must not think from this, that I do not wish you to marry. On the contrary, I am of opinion that you may attain a superior degree of happiness, in a married state, to what you may perhaps find in any other. I know the forlorn and unprotected state of an old maid, the chagrin and peevishness which are apt to infect their tempers, and the great difficulty of making a transition with dignity and cheerfulness, from the period of youth, beauty, admiration, and respect, into the calm, silent, unnoticed retreat of declining years.

I see some unmarried women, of active, vigorous minds, and of great vivacity of spirits, degrading them-

selves; sometimes by entering into a dissipated course of life unsuitable to their years, and exposing themselves to the ridicule of the girls, who might have been their grandchildren; sometimes by oppressing their acquaintances by impertinent intrusions into their private affairs; and sometimes by being the propagators of scandal and defamation. All this is owing to an exuberant activity of spirits, which, if it had found employment at home, would have rendered them respectable and useful members of society.

I see other women in the same situation, gentle, modest, blessed with sense, taste, delicacy, and every milder feminine virtue of the heart, but of weak spirits, bashful and timid; I see such women sinking into obscurity and insignificance, and gradually losing every elegant accomplishment, for this evident reason, that they are not with a partner who has sense, worth, and taste, to know their value; one who is able to draw forth their concealed qualities, and show them to advantage; who can give that support to their feeble spirits, which they stand in so much need of; and who by his affection and tenderness, might make such a woman happy in exerting every talent, and accomplishing herself in every elegant art, that could contribute to his amusement.

In short, I am of opinion, that a married state, if entered into from proper motives of esteem and affection, will be the happiest for yourselves, make you most respectable in the eyes of the world, and the most useful members of society. But I confess I am not enough of a patriot to wish you to marry for the good of the public. I wish you to marry for no other reason but to make yourselves happier. When I am so particular in my advice about your conduct, I own my heart beats with the

fond hope of making you worthy the attachment of men who will deserve you, and be sensible of your merit. But I sincerely hope you will never relinquish the ease and independence of a single life, to become the slaves of a fool or tyrant's caprice.

As these have always been my sentiments, I shall do you but justice, when I wish you in such independent circumstances as may lay you under no temptation to do from necessity, what you will never do from choice. This will likewise save you from that cruel mortification to a woman of spirit, the suspicion that a gentleman thinks he does you an honor or a favor, when he asks you for his wife.

I am, &c.

LETTER 146.

From a Father to his Daughters, on Marriage.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

You may perhaps imagine, that the reserved behaviour which I recommend to you, and your appearing seldom at public places, must cut off all opportunities of your being acquainted with gentlemen. I am very far from intending this; I advise you to no reserve but what will render you more respected and beloved by our sex. I do not think public places suited to make people acquainted together. They can only be distinguished there by their looks and external behaviour. But it is in private companies alone where you can expect easy and agreeable conversation, which I shall never wish you to decline. If you do not allow gentlemen to become acquainted with you, you never can expect to marry with attachment on either side—Love is very sel-

dom produced at first sight ; at least it must have, in that case, a very unjustifiable foundation. True love is founded on esteem, in a correspondence of tastes and sentiments, and steals on the heart imperceptibly.

There is one piece of advice I shall leave you, to which I beg your particular attention. Before your affections come to be in the least engaged to any man, examine your tempers, your tastes, and your hearts very severely ; and settle in your own minds, what are the requisites to your happiness in a married state ; and as it is almost impossible that you should get every thing to your wish, come to a steady determination what you are to consider as essential ; and what may be sacrificed.

If you have hearts disposed by nature for love and friendship, and possess those feelings which enable you to enter into all the refinements and delicacies of these attachments, consider well, for your own sake, and as you value your future happiness, before you give them any indulgence. If you have the misfortune (for a very great misfortune it commonly is to your sex) to have such a temper and such sentiments deeply rooted in you ; if you have spirit and resolution to resist the solicitations of vanity, the persecution of friends, (you will have lost the only friend that would never persecute you) and can support the prospect of the many inconveniences attending the state of an old maid, which I formerly pointed out—then you may indulge yourself in that kind of sentimental reading and conversation which is most correspondent to your feelings.

But if you find, on a strict self-examination, that marriage is absolutely essential to your happiness, keep the secret inviolable in your own bosoms, for the reasons I formerly mentioned : but shun, as you would the most

fatal poison, all that species of reading and conversation which warms the imagination, which engages and softens the heart, and raises the taste above the level of common life. If you do otherwise, consider the terrible conflict of passions which this may afterwards raise in your breasts.

If this refinement once takes deep root in your minds, and you do not obey its dictates, but marry from vulgar and mercenary views, you may never be able to eradicate it entirely; and then it will embitter all your married days. Instead of meeting with sense, delicacy, tenderness, a lover, a friend, an equal companion, in a husband, you may be tired with insipidity and dulness; shocked with indelicacy, or mortified with indifference. You will find none to compassionate or even understand your sufferance; for your husbands may not use you cruelly, and may give you as much money for your clothes, personal expense, and domestic necessities, as is suitable to their fortunes; the world would therefore look upon you as unreasonable women, who did not deserve to be happy, if you were not so.—To avoid these complicated evils, if you are determined at all events to marry, I would advise you to make all your reading and amusements of such a kind as do not affect the heart, nor the imagination.

I have no view by these advices to lead your taste; I only want to persuade you of the necessity of knowing your own minds, which, though seemingly very easy, is what your sex seldom attain on many important occasions in life, but particularly on this of which I am speaking. There is not a quality I more anxiously wish you to possess, than a collected decisive spirit which rests on itself, which enables you to see where your true happiness lies,

and to pursue it with the most determined resolution. In matters of business, follow the advice of those who know them better than yourselves, and in whose integrity you can confide; but, in matters of taste, that depend upon your own feelings, consult no one friend whatever, but consult your own hearts.

If a gentleman makes his addresses to you, or gives you reason to believe he will do so, before you allow your affections to be engaged, endeavor, in the most prudent and secret manner, to procure from your friends every necessary information concerning him; such as his character for sense, his morals, his temper, fortune and family; whether it is distinguished for parts and worth, or for folly, knavery, and loathsome hereditary diseases. When your friends inform you of these, they have fulfilled their duty. If they go further, they have not that deference for you which a becoming dignity on your part would effectually command. Whatever your views are in marrying, take every possible precaution to prevent their being disappointed. If fortune and the pleasures it brings are your aim, it is not sufficient that the settlement of a jointure and children's provisions be amply and properly secured; it is necessary that you should enjoy the fortune during your own life. The principal security you can have for this will depend on your marrying a good natured, generous man, who despises money, and who will let you live where you can best enjoy that pleasure, that pomp, and parade of life, for which you married him.

I am, &c.

LETTER 147.

From the same to the same, on the foregoing subject.

DEAR DAUGHTERS,

From what I wrote in my last, you will easily see that I could never pretend to advise whom you should marry ; but I can with confidence advise whom you should not marry.

Avoid a companion that may entail any hereditary disease on your posterity ; particularly, that most dreadful of all human calamities, madness. It is the height of imprudence to run into such danger, and, in my opinion, highly criminal.

Do not marry a fool ; he is the most untractable of all animals ; he is led by his passions and caprices, and is incapable of hearing the voice of reason. It may probably too hurt your vanity to have husbands for whom you have reason to blush and tremble, every time they open their lips in company. But the worst circumstance that attends a fool is, his constant jealousy of his wife's being thought to govern him. This renders it impossible to lead him, and he is continually doing absurd and disagreeable things, for no other reason but to show he dares to do them.

A rake is always a suspicious husband, because he has only known the most worthless of your sex. He likewise entails the worst of diseases on his wife and children, if he has the misfortune to have any.

If you have a sense of religion yourselves, do not think of husbands who have none. If they have tolerable understandings, they will be glad that you have religion, for their own sake, and for the sake of their families. If

they are weak men, they will be continually teasing and shocking you about your principles. If you have children, you will suffer the most bitter distress, in seeing all your endeavors to form their minds to virtue and piety, all your endeavors to secure their present and eternal happiness, frustrated and turned into ridicule.

As I look on your choice of a husband to be of the greatest consequence to your happiness, I hope you will make it with the utmost circumspection. Do not give way to a sudden sally of passion, and dignify it with the name of love.—Genuine love is not founded in caprice; it is founded in nature—on honorable views and virtues, on similarity of taste and sympathy of soul. If you have these sentiments, you will never marry any one, when you are not in that situation, in point of fortune, which is necessary to the happiness of either of you. What that competency may be, can only be determined by your own tastes. It would be ungenerous in you to take advantage of a lover's attachment to plunge him into distress; and if he has any honor, no personal gratification will ever tempt him to enter into any connexion, which will render you unhappy. If you have as much between you as will satisfy all your demands, it is sufficient. I shall conclude with endeavoring to remove a difficulty, which must occur to any woman of reflection, on the subject of marriage.

What is to become of all those refinements of delicacy—that dignity of manner which checked all familiarities, and suspended desire in respectful and awful admiration? In answer to this, I shall only observe, that if motives of interest or vanity have any share in your resolutions to marry, none of these chimerical notions will give you any pain; nay, they will very quickly appear

as ridiculous in your own eyes, as they probably always do in the eyes of your husband. They have been sentiments which floated in your imaginations, but have never reached your hearts. But if these sentiments have been truly genuine, and if you have had the singularly happy fate to attach those who understand them, you have no reason to be afraid.

I have thus given you my opinion on some of the most important articles of your future life, chiefly calculated for that period, when you are just entering the world. But in writing to you, I am afraid my heart has been too full, and too warmly interested, to allow me to keep this resolution. This may have produced some embarrassment, and some seeming contradictions. What I have written has been the amusement of some solitary hours, and has served to divert some melancholy reflections.—I am conscious I undertook a task to which I was very unequal; but I have discharged a part of my duty.—You will at least be pleased with it, as the last mark of your father's love and attention.

I am, your affectionate father.

PART IV.

LETTERS ON FRIENDSHIP.

LETTER 148.

The following Letter on Friendship was written by a Gentleman lately deceased, and found amongst his papers.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

It was a strange notion of Paschal, that he would never admit any man to a share of his friendship. Had that great man been a misanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow creatures, I should not have been much surprised; but as his love to mankind extended as far as either his knowledge or influence, it is necessary to consider his reasons, for a conduct apparently so strange. Paschal had such elevated notions of the Deity on the one hand, and so low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought if he placed his affections on any created being it would be a sort of insult to the Creator, and a robbing him of that worship which was due to him alone. But whatever were the notions of that great man, yet there is such a thing as real friendship, and there is also a necessity for it. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed. But those who are acquainted with human nature, well know that we are such a composition

of flesh and spirit, that however we may wish to keep up an intercourse with the Deity, yet our inclinations are such, that we are more desirous of being conversant with those of our own species, to whom, at all times, we can be able to unbosom ourselves.

Friendship is as old as the first formation of society, and there is not one ancient writer now extant, who has not said something in praise of it. Of this we have a fine example in the story of David and Jonathan, as recorded in the second book of Samuel. In the same sacred oracles we are told that love is stronger than death; and even the great Redeemer of the world had a beloved disciple.

But whatever the wise or learned may say, yet, we know that man is a social being, and consequently has a capacity, and even a desire for friendship, which is in its own nature so necessary, that I know not how a social being can exist without it.

Are we by any providential occurrence, raised from poverty to affluence, to whom can we communicate the delightful news but our friend? On the other hand, are we reduced from the highest pinnacle of grandeur to the most abject state of poverty, to whom can we look for consolation but God and our friend? Indeed there is not one state or condition in life where friendship is not necessary. What wretched mortals would men be were they not endowed with so noble a principle!

Friendship is of a very delicate nature, and either the happiness or misery of both parties may, in some sense, be said to depend on it. Friendship is somewhat like marriage, it is made for life, or, as Cesar said, "The die is cast." Mrs. Rowe, in one of her letters to the Countess of Hertford, says, "When I contract a friendship it

is for eternity." Her notions were always elevated, and the chief business of her life seems to have been promoting the interest of her fellow creatures. Friendship obliges the parties engaged to open their minds to each other; there must not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the Deity, not an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the word Friendship. Benevolence, mercy, pity, compassion, &c. are only parts of it.

From all this we may learn, that great care ought to be had in the choice of friends; and should they unhappily betray the sacred trust reposed in them, yet we ought not to pursue them with unrelenting fury.

In the course of my experience I remember two instances of the breach of friendship, which were attended with very different effects. Two gentlemen contracted a friendship for each other, which lasted some years; at last one of them unhappily revealed a secret to his wife, who told it to the wife of the other, in consequence of which an unhappy division took place in the family of the latter. The injured person upbraided his friend with infidelity, told him of the fatal effects occasioned by this imprudence; but, says he, although I cannot be your friend any longer, yet I will never be your enemy. My heart will pity you, whilst my hand shall be open to relieve your necessities. Such a declaration was consistent with the prudence of a man, and the piety of a christian; but that of the other was of a nature totally opposite, and, in my opinion, truly diabolical. A difference of a similar nature happened, attended with the like circumstances; but the injured person, instead of sympathizing with the weakness of his friend, pursued him with unrelenting cruelty, nor ever ceased until

he had accomplished his ruin, and even triumphed over it. You may make what comments you please; I can only assure you that both are facts. How different, my friend, has our conduct to each other been? During these thirty years no breach has ever happened; and it seems as new this day as at the beginning. As this is probably the last letter you will ever see in my hand writing, accept of my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have received from your faithful admonitions, and your benevolent consolations; and when we meet in the regions of bliss, our happiness will then remain uninterrupted.

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER 149.

From a young Woman to a Lady, with whom she had formerly lived as a Companion.

MADAM,

The precipitate manner in which I left your family, may seem inconsistent with the great tenderness you always treated me with. To remove, therefore, every imputation of ingratitude, I embrace this first opportunity of appearing in my own vindication, although, for your sake I am sorry to descend to particulars, especially to mention names. But my reputation, which is dearer to me than life itself, is at stake, and as a woman, I doubt not but you will bear with me.

When I first came into your service, I was determined to act in such a manner as not to give any offence to the meanest of your domestics; well knowing that good nature and affability always procure respect; and I appeal to every person in your family, whether my conduct

was not consistent with my plan. In this manner I remained enjoying an uninterrupted state of felicity for some time. I obeyed your commands with alacrity ; and even servitude became a pleasure. But this was too happy a state to last long without interruption. But I scarce know how to proceed. Whilst I am vindicating my own conduct to my most generous benefactress, I am obliged to impeach that of her dearest and most beloved relation.

When your son George returned from the university, where he had been finishing his studies, I had no thoughts that he would ever have made an attempt on my virtue. But alas ! I was wretchedly deceived. He had only been a few days at home when he laid hold of every opportunity of being in my company. At first I did not take any notice, as I had not the least suspicion of his intentions. But I was soon convinced of my error, when he told me, that in consequence of my prostituting myself to his unlawful pleasure, he would make me a handsome settlement. This, madam, was a strong temptation, but blessed be God who preserved me innocent. You have often told me, that young women ought to fly from every appearance of sin ; and if so, how great was my necessity of avoiding the evil ? Had I laid snares to entrap your son for a husband, it might have destroyed your own peace of mind, and been considered as a dishonor to your family. Had I submitted to his unlawful desires, I should have forfeited every title to respect in this world, and highly offended that God who has graciously preserved me hitherto. He became more and more assiduous, till for his, for yours, and for my own sake, I was obliged to retire in as silent a manner as possible. I am now at the house of a distant relation in

Milbank, who takes in plain work, where I hope your ladyship will be pleased to send my clothes. With respect to wages, you know I always left that to your own discretion, and your humanity exceeded my utmost expectations. Therefore, I again leave that matter to yourself. Let me beg, that if you mention this unhappy affair to the young gentleman, it may be with your usual tenderness. I would willingly impute his folly to the irregularities of youthful passion, rather than to any premeditated scheme; and I doubt not when reason resumes her throne in his heart, he will be sorry that ever he attempted to ruin one who was scarce worthy of his notice.

I am, madam,

With gratitude and respect,

Your affectionate well wisher.

LETTER 150.

The Lady's Answer.

DEAR BETTY,

Whilst I lament the conduct of my unhappy child, I lift up my eyes with thankfulness to that gracious Being who has preserved you from ruin.—You was left an orphan under my care; and when I first took you into my family, it was with a design to promote your interest. Blessed be God, that the precepts which I endeavored to instil into your mind have so far operated on your conduct. Your behaviour in that unhappy affair ought to be laid down as a pattern for all young women to copy after, if they would be respected in this world, or enjoy happiness in the next. I have just been reading

your letter to my son, and he was filled with the utmost shame and confusion. The truth of your narrative forced his conscience to make a genuine confession of his guilt; and unless I judge with the partiality of a mother, he is really a sincere penitent. I laid open to him the nature of his crime, and its aggravating circumstances, arising from the obligations which his elevated rank subjected him to, to be an example of virtue to those in a lower sphere of life. I told him, that however trifling such actions might appear in the eyes of his graceless companions, yet there was a God who beheld his inmost thoughts, and would reward him according to his merits. He declares himself fully sensible of his folly, and says he is determined never to attempt such a thing for the future. The bearer will deliver your clothes, together with a bank note of an hundred dollars. Be assured of my constant assistance; and may that God who has preserved you in such imminent danger, be your continual comfort in time and in eternity.

I am, your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 151.

From a Gentleman on his Travels abroad, to his Friend in London, on arbitrary power, and Popish superstition.

DEAR SIR,

It is now above two years since I left England; and if I have not been pleased, I had at least many opportunities of acquiring knowledge. You know when we parted I told you my principal design was to inquire whether the subjects of those countries through which I was to pass were more happy in respect to their lives,

and enjoyment of their property, than those of Great Britain? Or, second, whether virtue was more conspicuous in the conduct of those people than in our own at home? With respect to the first, I need not hesitate one moment in declaring, that the meanest subject in England, or any part of the British dominions, enjoys more real liberty than a Spanish grandee, or a peer of France. But what I have chiefly in view, is the case of the middling and lower ranks of people.

You are well acquainted with the forms of process in the English courts, both in criminal and civil causes. All matters of law are determined in open court by the judges, who are responsible for their conduct to the people; and all facts are determined by the verdict of twelve men, strangers to both parties, and hindered from speaking with any person during the trial. How different is the case here and in the other countries through which I have travelled! When a person is injured in his property, he commences a suit at great expense, and after a long train of pleadings on both sides, the determination both of law and fact is left to the judge, who may possibly be biassed in favor of one party, or, which is still worse, may be corrupted. But in criminal prosecutions the unhappy defendant labors under still more deplorable circumstances. When a man is apprehended on suspicion of murder, or any other capital offence, he is immediately shut up a close prisoner, and the witnesses against him are examined, not *viva voce*, but perhaps a mile distant, and their evidence written at large in a journal kept for the purpose. All this is done, and even the judgment agreed on by the court, whilst the prisoner is confined in a dungeon. The witnesses are ordered to attend on another day, when the prisoner is brought into

court; the evidence is read to him, and thus, for the first time, he knows who are his accusers. He is then asked if he is guilty of the facts sworn against him; if he confesses, he receives judgment of death; but if he denies the whole, or any part, he is immediately put to the torture, where, perhaps, by the extremity of pain, he may be forced to confess crimes he never committed, and afterwards suffer death. Again; the property of individuals may be seized by an arbitrary tyrant, to reward the iniquity of a favorite, or gratify the ambition of a mistress. Happy England, where the cottager is as secure in the enjoyment of the fruits of his honest industry, as the prince in the possession of his revenues on the throne!

I come now to speak of their religion, which triumphs with as much rigor over the mind and conscience, as the civil power over the body. Religion has been justly defined, "A dedication of the whole man to the will of God." But popery, so far from answering the above description, seems to be a slavish submission to the dictates of idle, useless priests, who rule the consciences of the vulgar, and bend them to whatever purpose they please. And indeed there is no great wonder, when we consider that auricular confession puts them in possession of every family secret in their parishes. I am already sufficiently tired with the sight of their follies. The accounts which you have read of the inquisition are far from being exaggerated. I intend to return in an English vessel bound for Marseilles, and from thence hasten to England. I shall expect a letter from you, to be left with my banker in Paris, and remain

Yours affectionately,

LETTER 152.

His Friend's Answer.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your account of the civil, and religious tyranny under which the people groan in foreign nations, together with the progress of deism, exhibits to our view a melancholy picture of human nature.—Your description reminds me of that beautiful passage in Addison's letters from Italy, where he says,

They starve, in midst of nature's bounty curst,
And in the loaded vineyard die for thirst.

These people once enjoyed the same privileges as ourselves, and possibly that time may not be far distant when we may be as abject slaves as they. However disagreeable some things may have been to you on your travels, yet I congratulate you on the happiness of being absent from England in these times of public divisions. Never was our Saviour's words more properly verified in this country than at present, when there is scarce one family wherein the most violent dissensions have not happened. An author of no mean rank has asserted, that if ever English liberty is destroyed, it must arise from the people themselves; and, if ever the people should become jealous of the conduct of their representatives in parliament, and those jealousies are well founded, they will soon throw themselves into the arms of arbitrary power.

"They'll fly from petty tyrants to the throne."

Virtue and unanimity have at all times preserved liberty; vice and discord have always procured its ruin. At present there is an universal discontent among nine

tenths of the people. The majority of the people, not only complain of the conduct of the ministry, but have even gone so far, as to impeach the conduct of the house of commons. These complaints are at present carried on to an extraordinary height; and where they will end, God only knows. For my own part, I often reflect on it with sorrow, as I am afraid it must at last prove fatal to our excellent constitution; and involve us in those miseries to which the people of other nations are subject.

If I go into a coffee house, the first thing I hear is a political dispute concerning the conduct of the ministry; and when I happen to be invited to dine at the house of a friend, all social converse is destroyed, and the pleasure I used formerly to enjoy on such occasions, is lost in violent altercations amongst the nearest relations. I am far from condemning all ranks of people. There are many worthy persons, who can view the conduct of each party with impartiality, and see the faults on both sides. They can see, that the ministry have not enough considered themselves the servants of the people, and on many occasions abused the confidence of their sovereign. On the other hand, they think the people have carried their jealousies to an unreasonable height; and insisted on the prince exerting a branch of the regal authority, which in the end might prove fatal to themselves. Such is the state of affairs at present in this once happy country; I shall therefore, being tired with the subject, imitate your example, and put an end to this letter. Hoping to see you soon,

I am yours sincerely.

LETTER 153.

From a young Merchant, to an aged Gentleman, formerly of the same profession, but now retired from business.

HONORED SIR,

Your generosity in sending me instructions during my apprenticeship, will ever remain a lasting proof of that innate goodness for which you have been so justly celebrated; and likewise encourages me to trouble you for advice how to conduct myself, so as to support my credit in the world, now I am entered upon business. Your long and extensive knowledge of mercantile affairs, gives a sanction to every thing you say, and your goodness of heart encourages the inexperienced to address themselves to you with cheerfulness. I have been now about two years in business, and although my success has been equal to my expectations, yet there are such a variety of failures daily in this city, that I am every day thinking that my own name may be that week in the Gazette. I should not be much surprised were all to become bankrupts who are abandoned characters, as I do not see how any thing less can be expected. You know, sir, that assiduity and regularity are qualifications indispensably necessary to the merchant; so that it must appear morally impossible for the man to prosper in trade, whose time is spent in dissipation and idleness; if not, which too often happens, in debauchery. When I hear of such failing in their payments, I am no ways surprised; but when great numbers of those, apparently in affluent circumstances, and the fairest characters, daily fail, I am justly alarmed, and my fears continue to increase in proportion to their numbers.

I would not choose to judge rashly, much less uncharitably of any man; although I must confess I am very much shocked to hear that a commission of bankruptcy is awarded against one supposed worth thousands, and not sufficient left to pay five shillings in the pound. I am filled with horror on account of my own situation, and led to believe that there is a latent curse attending mercantile affairs, which the greatest prudence can neither foresee nor prevent. I am sensible, that the person to whom I am writing knows the above to be true. Your long acquaintance with the fluctuating state of merchandize procures respect, and gives a sanction to every thing you say.—But, as far as I am able to learn, those failings in the mercantile world are more frequent now than when you was engaged in trade. I am not ambitious of acquiring riches, my whole desire is to obtain peaceable possession of the comforts of life, to do justice to every one with whom I have any dealings, and to live and die an honest man. Such, sir, is the plan I have laid down for my future conduct in life. But alas! it will require the assistance of all my friends to enable me to execute it with a becoming propriety. Let me therefore beg your advice on an affair of so much importance, and whatever you dictate shall be the invariable rule of my conduct, whilst the thanks of a grateful heart shall be continually returned for so benevolent an action.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER 154.

The Answer.

SIR,

If I can form any judgment of the integrity of your actions, and the purity of your intentions from the contents of the letter now before me, I should not hesitate one moment in declaring, that it is almost impossible your name should ever appear in the Gazette under the disagreeable circumstances you have mentioned. For how is it possible to suppose, that the man who keeps a regular account of his proceedings, his loss and gain, should not know whether his circumstances are affluent or distressed? And whatever you may think of those merchants, who have often failed, although reputed affluent, yet if you had attended to their examination before the commissioners, I believe you would have great reason to alter your opinion. I speak concerning bankruptcies in general; for there are some unforeseen accidents, which even the greatest prudence cannot prevent. But these are extraordinary cases, and seldom happen. If you examine minutely into the nature of those causes which generally occasion bankruptcies, you will find them arising from something with which you are still unacquainted. I shall endeavor to point out a few, and submit to your own judgment whether I am mistaken or not. And the first is generally a careless attention to business, the not keeping regular accounts, and a more earnest desire after public entertainments, than assiduity to business on the exchange. Mercantile affairs require a clear and solid judgment, and it is morally impossible for that man to prosper in trade, whose mind is

continually engaged in the pursuit of things foreign to, and wholly unconnected with, that station in which Providence has placed him. It is a contradiction in terms. Assiduity always procures respect, and generally insures success. Another cause of the many failures, in the mercantile world, is the vanity of those in trade, living above their circumstances. This vice is at present so predominant among the citizens, and its consequences so fatal, that one would almost imagine the people were laboring under some penal infatuation. Formerly the citizens of London were distinguished in a peculiar manner for their gravity; the exchange and the custom-house were the only places they frequented when they went from home. But now the face of affairs is changed, and those places where their predecessors acquired fortunes, are considered as too low and vulgar for them to be seen at. Nay, so far have they carried their extravagance, that all distinctions are in a manner confounded, and the wife of a tradesman is hardly known from the lady of a peer. Dissipation, extravagance, and debauchery, have taken place of activity, prudence, and frugality; and many instead of acquiring independent fortunes, and retiring from business with credit and honor, in their advanced years, we first see their names in the Gazette, and the remainder of their lives is either spent in prison, or they have to struggle through the world without credit under the odious appellation of a bankrupt. The last cause I would mention is naturally the effect of others; I mean, a desperate attempt to repair a broken fortune by engaging too deeply at gaming in the Stocks. This practice has been attended with such pernicious consequences, that the children unborn will become real sufferers through the madness of their infatuated parents.

When those who have wasted their substance in riotous living, are awakened by a feeling sense of their approaching shame and misery, they generally muster up all they can procure, and at one stroke venture it all in the Stocks, where, if one is successful, most commonly twenty are ruined. What I have now told you is the result of long experience, and I doubt not but you will find too glaring proofs of it. It now remains, that I should, in compliance with your request, point out some rules to be observed, in order to carry on business, both with credit, honor, and profit. But I know of no method more proper than to act diametrically opposite to the conduct of those already mentioned.

Learn to be wise by others' harm,
And you shall do full well.

Never leave that undone till tomorrow that can be performed today.

Never trust that to either a friend or a servant which can be done by yourself.

Keep an account of every day's expense, and once at least every week, compare your debt with your credit.

Be not over anxious in acquiring riches. Trade is solid, but slow; and experience has long since convinced me, that those who are over hasty in acquiring riches, most commonly fail in their attempts, and soon find themselves real beggars. But, above all, remember, that "In vain do we rise soon, or sit up late, unless our labors are crowned with divine blessings." I leave these things to your consideration, and am

With great sincerity,

Your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 155.

From a Gentleman in decayed circumstances in the country, to another lately returned from the East Indies, recommending his Son to his protection.

SIR,

I was greatly pleased to hear of your arrival, but much more so, that you had acquired an ample fortune. You knew me, when my circumstances were not only easy, but likewise affluent; and you also know that at that time, I was glad of every opportunity of assisting my friends. But, alas! I am now in quite a different situation. By the loss of a ship from Jamaica, I was obliged to stop payment, and give up all to my creditors, who have generously allowed me a small annuity for my subsistence. When that fatal event took place, I retired into the country with my wife and children, and my time since has been spent in superintending their education. The bearer, my eldest son, is just twenty, and is very desirous of going to the East Indies; but my circumstances are such, that it is not in my power to give him any assistance, nor indeed do I know in what manner to proceed in an affair of so much importance. The friendship which subsisted betwixt us before you left England, gives me some encouragement to hope, that your elevation and grandeur will not make any alteration in your sentiments concerning benevolence, notwithstanding the depressed situation to which I am reduced. I rather think that my present distressed circumstances will plead more powerfully in favor of the youth, than if he was supported even by the recommendation of the whole body of directors. I have given him an education, perhaps beyond my circumstances, and

suitable, I hope, to any situation in the mercantile world. His morals, so far as I know, are pure, and I doubt not his conduct will give satisfaction; if, therefore you will be pleased, either to take him under your own direction, or instruct me in what manner to proceed, in order to promote his interest, you will thereby confer a lasting obligation on an indulgent, though afflicted parent, and it shall be acknowledged with gratitude to the latest period of my existence.

I am, sir, your very humble servant.

LETTER 156.

The Answer.

DEAR SIR,

When I read your affecting letter, I scarcely know whether I was more grieved to hear of your distressed circumstances, or filled with shame that I had been three months in England, and never inquired for one who had not only treated me with humanity, but even assisted me in making my first voyage to the Indies. Your house was an asylum to me when I was utterly destitute; and I should consider myself as an object of the utmost abhorrence, if I hesitated one moment in complying with your request, relating to the amiable youth who brought me the letter. But, in what light must I consider myself, were my gratitude to the best of men confined to such a favor as would cost me nothing, or what I would grant even to a stranger! No sir, I am sensible of benefits received, and should consider myself as a mean, abject wretch, if I did not acknowledge them with gratitude. I have just been with your son to the directors, and he is engaged as

a writer at Bengal. If the climate agrees with his constitution, there is no great fear but he will soon acquire a considerable fortune. For which purpose, I have deposited, in the hands of the supercargo, five hundred pounds, for his use, which you know is more than I had when I first embarked for that part of the world. But still, I should consider myself as acting very partially, if, whilst I am making provision for the son, I should forget his aged parents. The ships for India do not sail till next March, so that your son will have at least three months to remain with you before he embarks. He sets off with the coach tomorrow, and I have intrusted him with something for your immediate use. I intend calling to spend a few days with you next month, and be assured, that nothing in my power shall be wanting to make your life as agreeable as possible. I have not so far forgot the principles of a virtuous education, as to look with indifference on the various dispensations of Providence. How true is that saying of the wise man, "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong!" As human wisdom cannot discern the progress to earthly grandeur, so man's prudence is not always able to guard against calamitous events. I am determined therefore not to place too much confidence in riches, and shall only consider myself as the steward of that all bountiful God, from whom I have received them. This is my fixed resolution, and I hope no allurements whatever will tempt me to deviate from it.

I am, dear sir, your affectionate friend.

LETTER 157.

On Marriage, from a Lady in town to her Friend in the country.

DEAR MADAM,

Marriage is despised by some, and by others too much coveted. The first sin against the law of nature, and divine ordination; the last, too often, against their own peace and happiness. For those who are in extraordinary haste for a settlement, do commonly extend their expectations beyond what they have possessed in a single life, and many times the imaginary heaven proves a hell. Though your changing your condition had an extraordinary prospect, yet I hear my last letter, which was to wish you joy, found you in sorrow; but I knew you are too well principled not to remember the time will come when the wicked shall cease from troubling, and the weary will be at rest. For if your husband continues so industrious to torment you, as the world represents him, I believe you can have but little rest till that time is come; unless it is by the inward peace of a good conscience, which none can take from you. This is a consolation which clamorous wives always lose, and which can never be recompensed by any point they gain, however apparently for their advantage.

Since the laws of God and nature have given men the supreme authority in marriage, we ought not first to accept them on these terms, and then mutiny upon all occasions. For though some men are so kind as to make our yoke light upon us, yet we take them "for better or worse;" and experience shows us that the odds are on the worse side. All this we should consider before we engage ourselves in those strict ties, which oblige us to

deny our own inclinations, and comply with those of our husbands. Indeed, human policy ought to teach us this lesson ; for if we make a man's home less agreeable to him than any other place, we furnish him with a good excuse for going abroad, which can never be to our mutual advantage. Those men whom business does not call out to get money, are generally on the spend ; and he that is driven from home by a wife's ill humor, is always more extravagant abroad, and even thinks he has a better pretence to be so, while he sacrifices his body and soul, as well as his estate, to his revènge.

Some women, indeed, will divert themselves and not seem to mind it ; and instead of endeavoring to win their husbands by complaisance, turn as extravagant as they ; or, as the old proverb says, "they light the candle at both ends ;" though they know it must at last burn their own fingers. However, they seldom fail of suffering by their rashness ; and the further they run out, the sooner they find a check upon their expenses ; beside, if they should preserve their honesty, they undergo the certain loss of their reputation, which is infinitely more valuable to them than any thing else in the world ; and although by such conduct they may think to reclaim the men, yet they "ought not to do evil that good may come."

But, most of all, I wonder at some of our acquaintance who seem to be sober women, and yet recommend it, as the best way to deal with a passionate husband, to be more unreasonable than he. Such conduct may silence some men, and might be pardonable, if God as well as man were to be silenced by it. But our religion tells us "we must not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." An evil tongue never appears so odious as in the mouth of a passionate woman, railing against her

husband. We commonly say that a madman is possessed ; and every one that is not in a rage himself, will allow passion to be a temporary madness, which makes men act as irrationally as lunatics, although they have not the same excuse to plead. Such unhappy persons will often tell you that passion is a natural infirmity ; a violent distemper which they strive against, and therefore they ought to be excused ; but let them remember that their conduct is the more unjustifiable, as they are sensible of their folly. If a husband be unkind and cruel, it is a great affliction, and the scripture tells us that all things of that nature are grievous ; but as contrary as they are to flesh and blood, yet they arise not from the dust, and it is not for us to contend with our Maker. He that can, with a word, control the winds and seas, can with as little trouble avert any storm that threatens, when he sees us fit objects of mercy. For if we attempt to shake off the yoke, or think by struggling to make the chain sit looser upon us, we shall soon be convinced of our error, like birds taken in a net, who by beating their feathers off, increase their misery, and at the same time disable themselves from making their escape.

Those amongst us that know we have been so obliging as never to deserve an ill word from our persecutors, should remember, that still we every day deserve God's chastisements, and that wicked and unreasonable men are a sword of his, which wounds us the deeper, the more we love the hand which he employs for our correction. But how sharp soever it is, yet we should not repine, considering it is to humble us, in order to draw us nearer to himself. He has said, that when we have arrived at a proper degree of perfection, we shall be free from all our sufferings ; but as long as we continue to offend, we shall

be punished either in this world, or, what is infinitely worse, in the world to come.

I have a few thoughts more to send you on the same subject, which I am not able at present to communicate, being in a poor state of health, but I am still,

Dear madam, your sincere friend.

LETTER 158.

To the same.

DEAR MADAM,

In compliance with your request, I mentioned a few things concerning marriage, and according to my promise, now send you the remainder.

It is certainly a very silly thing for people to quarrel who must be friends again; unless they choose rather to live asunder than submit to many things they cannot approve. I will not pretend to determine what provocation is sufficient to justify such a breach; nor, to say that it can not be justified, since even the best of women have parted from their husbands, although they seem sincerely to lament their separation. Nor does their conduct accuse them of having done it lightly, or upon the account of taking their pleasure, which would soon be discovered, as in such circumstances, all eyes are upon them, and they must live more reserved than the rest of the world, or else they would quickly be liable to such a censure as must vindicate the conduct of their husbands.

And though in all quarrels betwixt a man and his wife, if it comes to a hot dispute, there are faults in both parties, yet the weaker vessel is so little considered, merely for being weak, they are very often blamed much more

than they deserve ; which they can no way resent so well as by a strict observance of their relative duties, and to endeavor to have a conscience void of offence towards God and the world.

Nothing upon earth can be said to afford satisfaction only as our imagination makes it appear so at a distance ; and this prospect is dressed, by fancy, in such various shapes, that what would be a delight to one, is real misery to another ; and age or possession does sometimes give the same persons such different notions, that they grow sick at the very things they languished for before. This is probably the reason why old people are so much for denying young ones those innocent diversions which they have grown weary of themselves ; though, perhaps, at the same time they may gratify their own foible in something equally ridiculous. It is this contrariety in the mind that makes matrimony so uneasy ; for when one sets up a separate Diana to worship, their hearts cannot be full of affection to one another ; and if both are bigoted in their own way, it too often ruins, not only themselves, but also their innocent children. But you, madam, are in no danger of falling into this error, being of too complying a nature to bring yourself and others into any inconveniency upon that score ; and I rejoice to hear how unmoved you appear under so great a provocation. I confess, that a husband's keeping another before one's eyes, is the cruelest thing he can do ; yet, even in that case, it is most prudent to show no frowardness ; for the mistress will be sure to entertain him with mirth and caressing, which will make the wife's frowns seem more intolerable, and such women never fail to magnify all domestic accidents.

These prostitutes are, indeed, the greatest enemies to conjugal love; for them the gentlemen put on their best countenances, and with them they pass their most pleasing hours; the spleen and ill humor is reserved for the wife of his bosom, who must share in nothing but the grievances, till they become partners in their wants, which invariably follow such courses. Some few instances we have seen of husbands who have been reclaimed by a wife's tenderness, before the intrigue has gone too far, but I believe none were ever hector'd out of it.

Some men are so kind to their wives as to endeavor to conceal their falsehood; which if they do, it is very indiscreet for the ladies to inquire into it, and they are no friends who give them the information. He that goes about to hide his amour, shows either a sense of shame, or a regard to his spouse; and that may, in time, wean him from such company, or, at least, it is a sign he does not desire to grieve her, which most men esteem their great prerogative, and would lose half their satisfaction in their intrigues, were it not for the pleasure of tormenting their wives. There are some husbands, who, to use the old proverb, "have stretched the bow till it has broke," for any woman whose heart is divested of every virtuous principle, in such cases, will return the compliment, especially when stimulated both by pride and revenge. She thinks a gallant's admiration repairs the affront which a husband puts upon her charms, by giving her place to another, perhaps less handsome than herself. This has been thought a plausible excuse by many women, and upon their husbands running astray, have diverted their melancholy hours at the expense of their honor. But whatever I have said of mutual feelings, I do not make any comparison in favor of my own sex,

as I know the crime is much greater in the wife, and even detestable, modesty being the highest ornament of women, and the casting it off becomes a sin both against God and nature. For my part, if I commit a fault against my sex, in being for so much resignation, they must pardon me; for I cannot advise others to more obedience than I would wish to practise myself; and I intreat all those who despise me as being so tame a fool, that they would banish all anger out of their minds for one year, and then tell me if they have not more content in forgiving, than returning a reproach.

I fear I have already exceeded the bounds of a letter, for which I ought to make an apology, but more words would give you trouble; therefore I will only beg of you to excuse and love

Your ever sincere and affectionate friend.

LETTER 159.

From a Lady to her Friend, whose Lover had basely deserted her and married another.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Our expectation of happiness is generally so ill placed, that it is no wonder we meet with perpetual disappointments. When our choice arises from passion, we have so very blind a guide as will inevitably lead to destruction; for though love appears then gentlest, yet our affections are so much the right of our Almighty Creator, that as often as we fix them immoderately upon any of the fading objects here below, we are certainly guilty of sacrilege to the Divine goodness, which fault is commonly punished by the very thing we doat on. This, I doubt

not, has been your case, and not yours alone ; for soon or late, few escape that mischief, especially amongst our weaker sex, whose tender nature leaves them most exposed to ruin ; and though they see others shipwrecked before their eyes, will yet venture out to sea on the same bottom ; insensible of danger, till they perish, and often fall unpitied.

Men have a thousand advantages over us, but in the affair of courtship they add cunning to all their other accomplishments, and are as zealous to deceive, as if their lives would be made happy by the cheat. However, they will find it a sad mistake, at least, if perjury is to be accounted for ; although your false traitor, like many others, may look on that time as at a great distance. But I suppose he thinks himself excused, as being more knave than fool, which title, indeed, is so highly due to him, that I believe none will do him such manifest wrong as to dispute it ; and I am sure, the blacker he appears, the greater reason you have to bless that Providence which permitted him to break the contract ; for without doubt, he that proved so ill a lover to the best of mistresses, would have made an intolerable husband to the best of wives ; and ill usage would have cost you more than his infidelity. I am sensible a heart so generous and constant as yours cannot easily efface the deep impression he has made in it ; that must be the work of time, with God's assistance, which I hope will never fail you. I do assure you I am deeply touched with every thing that concerns you ; nor is it without great regret that I submit to the unhappy circumstances which detain me from being the companion of your melancholy hours, which I should endeavor, with all my power, to divert.

You say it is a daily aggravation to your trouble, to reflect that you suffered yourself to be so easily imposed upon ; but that, as I told you before, is our common fate, although all impostors are not equally industrious to be wicked ; and you ought not to condemn your own judgment, for want of sagacity to discover a cheat, as it would be to arraign the conduct of almost all the human race.

Pardon me, dear madam, for troubling you so far. Indeed I might have told you at first what I must mention now, and what you know already, that he only can give us comfort, whom we seldom regard only when we are driven to it by necessity. Solomon, who had tried all the alluring charms of love and beauty, whose quality and riches gave him an opportunity to gratify every inclination, without any bounds to his wishes, could call them all "vanity and vexation of spirit." It is no wonder then, if every one of us discover the same truth to our own cost. Let us therefore resolve, as much as we can, to submit our wills to the will of our heavenly Father, who sees all our actions, and has so decreed, that our way to everlasting happiness should be through the wilderness of affliction.

Yours, affectionately.

LETTER 160.

From a Lady who had formerly kept a Boarding-school, to another of the same profession, on Female Education.

MADAM,

I received your letter, containing the following request, viz. What are the most proper methods to be used in conducting the education of young ladies, so as to avoid extravagance on the one hand, and meanness on the other ?

This is a very important question, and perhaps above my poor abilities to answer. However, as I have had many years experience in female education, I shall tell you my thoughts on the subject with the greatest freedom. It is the misfortune of the present age, that almost all ranks of people are so much infatuated as to strive who shall outdo one another in extravagance, and a daughter of an ordinary tradesman can scarce be distinguished from one of the nobility. If we inquire into the causes from which such effects flow, we shall find that they are partly owing to the conduct of their mothers, and partly to those intrusted with their education. I shall mention a few things relating to both, and you can judge of their propriety.

Mothers should, on every occasion, teach their daughters that it is a duty incumbent on them not to have aspiring views beyond that station in which Providence has placed them. That humble, unaffected modesty in a stuff gown, will be preferred by every sensible person before either silks or Brussels lace. That it is a greater accomplishment for a tradesman's daughter to wash a floor than to dance on it; and much more useful to be able to dress a joint of meat, than to point out the particular merits of an actress, and applaud or condemn a song. But the keepers of boarding schools are still more culpable than parents. No sooner is Miss placed in one of these seminaries, than she is taught to consider herself a young lady, and is even honored with that appellation. Thus the seeds of vanity are sown in the first rudiments of learning, and continue to operate on her conduct, as she advances in years.

It is almost impossible for those who are any way acquainted with human nature to imagine that the girl who is taught to consider herself as a lady, can ever be a proper

wife for a tradesman, and common sense teaches her that she has nothing greater to expect.

But there is something still worse. She is not only unfit to be the wife of an honest, industrious tradesman, but she often occasions his ruin. She expects to be supported in the same extravagant manner as at the boarding-school; dissipation takes place of prudence, public diversions are more attended to than domestic duties; and the unhappy husband, to enjoy peace, is often obliged to leave his business, that his lady may be honored with his company. The fatal effects of such extravagance are soon felt, and the woman who formerly considered herself as a lady, finds, by woful experience, that she had assumed an improper name.

The best, nay, the only way to educate children, consistent with their own station in life, is, on all occasions, to teach them not to expect more than their birth entitles them to. It would likewise be very beneficial to the nation, if those women who keep boarding schools were to instruct the girls in useful employments rather than in useless arts that cannot be of any real benefit to them, but on the contrary are a material injury in their intercourse with the world.

I have thus thrown together a few reflections upon the subject of female education, but it is impossible to treat it properly in the small compass of a letter, but I will endeavor to be more explicit in a future communication. In the mean time believe me, dear madam,

Your sincere friend.

LETTER 161.

To a young man on the commencement and pursuit of Trade.

Having formerly stated to you the nature and advantages of prudence and discretion, I will now instance the particulars wherein you are called to the exercise of it, namely :

1. In getting a full insight into your calling ; so as to know the parts, and lawful arts and methods of it. The nature and quality of the commodities you deal in ; proper times and places for buying and vending of them ; the quantities of each that are most likely to produce advantage ; the best method and art of manufacturing goods, and the certain nostrums which are in most callings, and on which much of the success of them depends ; these, and every other part, should be well studied, and fully understood. Leave it to others to pride themselves in the knowledge of callings foreign to their own ; or, to be curiously prying into the conduct and concerns of others ; and remember, "the wisdom of the prudent is to understand his own way." Your trade or calling is your proper province, for the improvement of which your mind and capacities should be employed ; and neither God nor man will condemn you for inexperience in the business of others. Let the time of your apprenticeship be carefully improved to this end. Treasure up all the knowledge you can attain by observation and instruction, and never be ashamed to continue learning any honest skill ; for no fortune or application will support a man who is remarkably defective in knowledge. Your success is likely to be that of a rich vessel guided by an unskilful pilot, in danger soon to be shipwrecked and lost. On the

other hand, all masters should endeavor honestly and faithfully to instruct their apprentices in all the lawful and gainful mysteries of their callings. This they are bound to do by their own agreement, and by all the rules of justice and honor.

2. In the prudent choice of the several circumstances of trade.

For time. Choose that which is most suitable for your business ; "for to every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose." And among the rest, "a time to buy, and a time to sell," which every wise tradesman will observe. The future contingencies of business, and the rise and fall of the value of commodities, often depend upon such uncertain or such unknown causes, that the deepest penetration is not able to fathom ; but, to buy goods when they are cheap, and sell them when they are growing dear ; and at all times to be cautious of overcharging yourselves with dear or changeable goods, are maxims of prudence that never vary. Futurity is hid from us, but discretion is given to direct us, and those of the best discernment and sagacity are most likely to be successful.

For place. Prudence will direct the tradesman to consider which is most suitable and proper for his calling, and fix there. The conveniences of his family must give way to the conveniences of his business, and his fancy be regulated by his judgment in this affair. That place may be exceeding proper and advantageous for one employment, which persons of a different one must starve in ; and a fine house, or a pleasant situation, or even a small rent, will not make amends for the want of customers.

Great prudence is necessary in the choice of persons. First, whom to trust ; for, it is not the metal that glitters.

most, that is always the richest ; men are often deceitful, and too many make it their business to deceive, and enrich themselves with the spoils of the unwary and credulous. It is better, therefore, to be at the pains of a diligent inquiry after their abilities for the trust which we repose in them, than endure the grief of sad experience, that we were mistaken in our apprehensions concerning them. Certain it is, that as there is prudence in trusting some, and charity in trusting others ; so there are many whom it is neither prudent nor charitable to trust at all. Whom to deal with ; to wit, with men of conscience, or, at least of common honesty ; for these may be relied upon with more security than others, and it is at all times more creditable to correspond with men of virtue than with knaves, common fame will generally acquaint you who, and where they are. Lastly, whom to be familiar with. For though we should be friendly to all, yet familiar only with a few ; and they should be such as we may either receive good from, or do good unto. And even of these, not too many ; for the tradesman's employment will not allow him time sufficient for performing the necessary offices of friendship to a great number. Let, therefore, the wise and prudent, the virtuous and good, be the persons of your intimacy and choice ; for, nothing has a greater influence on our present and future happiness or misery, than our chosen companions, as I have before observed. " He that walketh with wise men shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."

3. This prudence should appear in using mature deliberation in affairs of importance. It is too visible, that even men of ingenuity are often ruined by their own rashness. Not considering the circumstances that are necessary to direct them in proper conduct, nor viewing

the consequences that flow from them, they are carried on by a plausible appearance of things, or a hasty impetuosity of spirit, to the irretrievable ruin of themselves and families ; fancy or passion, not reason and judgment, being the guides of their actions. Others lose their opportunities of advantage by an unsettled, dilatory temper of mind, suspending their determinations, till the proper season of acting is past. Due deliberation is therefore recommended, according to the importance and difficulty of the affair, and the limits of time it will admit of. If the case will allow of it, take a night's time to think of it ; for that which is weighed over night, and reviewed in the morning, will be in some degree ripe for a judicious resolution. Indeed, as to trifling concerns, it is childish and unnecessary to spend much time in determining concerning them ; but of the two, a circumspect slowness in words and actions, is preferable to too much speed, as being less dangerous and hurtful.

LETTER 162.

To a young Gentleman, on his entering into the World, with directions how to conduct himself.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Your apprenticeship is near out, and you are soon to set up for yourself ; that approaching moment is a critical one for you, and an anxious one for me. A tradesman, who would succeed in his way, must begin by establishing a character of integrity and good manners ; without the former, nobody will go to his shop at all ; without the latter, nobody will go there twice. This rule does not exclude the fair arts of trade. He may sell his goods.

at the best price he can, within certain bounds. He may avail himself of the humor, the whims, and the fantastical tastes of his customers ; but what he warrants to be good, must be really so ; what he seriously asserts must be true, or his first fraudulent practices will soon end in a bankruptcy. It is the same in higher life, and in the great business of the world. A man who does not solidly establish, and really deserve, a character of truth, probity, good manners, and good morals, at his first setting out in the world, may impose, and shine like a meteor for a very short time, but will very soon vanish, and be extinguished with contempt. People easily pardon, in young men, the common irregularities of the senses ; but they do not forgive the least vice of the heart. The heart never grows better by age ; I fear worse, always harder. A young liar will be an old one ; and a young knave will only be a greater knave as he grows older. But should a bad young heart, accompanied with a good head, which by the way is very seldom the case, really reform in a more advanced age, from a consciousness of its folly as well as of its guilt ; such a conversion would only be thought prudential and political, but never sincere. I hope in God, and I verily believe, that you want no moral virtue. Your character in the world must be built upon that solid foundation, or it will soon fall, and upon your own head. You cannot, therefore, be too careful, too nice, too scrupulous, in establishing this character at first, upon which your whole depends. Let no conversation, no example, no fashion, no silly desire of seeming to be above what most knaves, and many fools, call prejudices, ever tempt you to avow, excuse, extenuate, or laugh at the least breach of morality ; but show, upon all occasions, and take all occasions to show a detestation and abhor-

rence of it. There, though young, you ought to be strict ; and there only, while young, it becomes you to be strict and severe. But, there too, spare the persons, while you lash the crimes. All this relates, as you easily judge, to the vices of the heart ; such as lying, fraud, envy, malice, detraction, &c. and I do not extend it to the little frailties of youth, flowing from high spirits, and warm blood. It would ill become you, at your age, to declaim against them, and sententiously censure a gallantry, an accidental excess of the table, a frolic, an inadvertency ; no, keep as free from them yourself as you can ; but say nothing against them in others. They certainly mend by time, often by reason ; and a man's worldly character is not affected by them, provided it be pure in all other respects.

To come to a point of much less, yet of very great consequence, at your first setting out. Be upon your guard against vanity, the common failing of inexperienced youth ; but particularly against that kind of vanity, that dubs a man a coxcomb. It is not to be imagined by how many ways vanity defeats its own purposes.

One man decides peremptorily upon every subject, betrays his ignorance upon many, and shows a disgusting presumption upon the rest. Another desires to appear successful among the women ; he hints at the encouragement he has received from those of the most distinguished rank and beauty, and intimates a particular connection with some one ; if it is true, it is ungenerous ; if false, it is infamous ; but in either case, he destroys the reputation he wants to get. Some flatter their vanity by little extraneous objects, which have not the least relation to themselves, such as being descended from, related to, or acquainted with people of distinguished merit, and

eminent characters. They talk perpetually of their grandfather such a one, their uncle such a one, and their intimate friend such a one, whom possibly they are hardly acquainted with. But admitting it all to be as they would have it. What then? Have they the more merit for those accidents? Certainly not. On the contrary, their taking them up adventitiously, proves their want of intrinsic merit; a rich man never borrows. Take this rule for granted, as a never failing one, that you must never seem to affect the character in which you have a mind to shine. Modesty is the only sure bait, when you angle for praise. The affectation of courage will make even a brave man pass only for a bully; as the affectation of wit will make a man of parts pass for a coxcomb. By this modesty I do not mean timidity or awkward bashfulness. On the contrary, be inwardly firm and steady, know your own value, whatever it may be, and act upon that principle; but take great care to let nobody discover that you do know your own value. Whatever real merit you have, other people will discover; and people always magnify their own discoveries, as they lessen those of others.

For God's sake revolve all these things seriously in your thoughts, before you launch out alone into the world. Recollect the observations which you have yourself made upon mankind, compare and connect them with my instructions, and then act systematically and consequentially from them. Lay your little plan now, which you will hereafter extend and improve by your own observations, and by the advice of those who can never mean to mislead you.

I am, your faithful and affectionate friend.

LETTER 163.

From a Lady to her Friend who had buried her Husband.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

Impute not my silence to any want, but the excess of kindness, which makes me too much a partner of your sorrow, to find words at all suitable to the share I have with you in it. If therefore, I am the last in condoling, I do most faithfully assure you, that it is not insensibility, but the highest degree of love and tenderness that occasioned it. The grief that is least is soonest expressed, and perhaps, the more noise it makes, the less mischief is sustained by it. Had I been unconcerned, my thoughts and pen might have been more free, though I could not have said any thing sufficient to stem so violent a tide as your just lamentations. I might have offered some poor reasons against other women's afflicting themselves so much, which I should be ashamed to mention to you, having been a witness how far your husband's love and merits excelled the best of men I ever met with; and I am so sensible of your reciprocal affection, that I know the power of God only can support you under such a separation, which, I believe, was more terrible than death itself. But, my dear friend, your sorrow is not as one without hope. Use your utmost endeavors to submit to the hand of the Almighty, with as much resignation in this as you did in your own distemper, though that only assaulted your body, while this pierces your heart. You must remember, that it was the same merciful God that gave you him who has now taken him to himself; and in the midst of your afflictions, bless God for sparing you so long for the sake of your children. I hope you will consider that this

parting is to his inexpressible advantage, and has removed him from a transitory and imperfect, to an everlasting happiness, whither, I doubt not, you are daily preparing to follow him ; and since it has pleased God to deny you the further assistance of such an example and counsellor, he will abundantly recompense that loss, by a greater measure of his grace, to carry you through those trials and temptations to which you are daily exposed, unless you neglect to implore his help, by giving up yourself to such melancholy as must discompose your faculties, while it weakens your natural constitution. If the saints in heaven are acquainted with what happens in this lower world, they must disapprove of such a conduct as leads them to contend with their greatest benefactor and best friend. Shall the thing formed say to its Maker, why hast thou done so ? The time is fast approaching, when you, being freed from all entanglements with this sublunary world, must visit those regions where you will again see your beloved spouse, in a state never to be interrupted, never to have an end, where you must be happy. This I have learned even from heathen sages, that all violent pains are short, and but of a transitory duration. But we Christians are obliged to consider affliction in a quite different light, as the chastisement of our heavenly Father, whose benevolence is his darling attribute.

If the dissolution of the righteous is to exempt them from labor, though our temporal interest makes us eager to detain them longer with us, yet the sense of what they enjoy in heaven must be a great means of abating our grief. Some, indeed, have so little comfort in this world, that they are ready to say with Job of old : " Wherefore is light given to him that is in misery, and life unto the bitter in soul ; which long for death and it cometh not,

and dig for it more than for hidden treasures ; which rejoice exceedingly, and are glad when they can find the grave."

Your most flattering hopes could not, in the course of nature, have been many years longer gratified with his company ; therefore you must not spend the remainder of your days in mourning, but being fully convinced of the vanity of every thing mortal, let us submit to every alteration as the servants of God who has graciously promised to lay no more upon us than we can bear. That you may experience that mercy to assist you in this trial of your faith and patience, is the prayer of,

Dear madam,

Your ever affectionate friend.

LETTER 164.

From a Gentleman to his Friend, in distressed circumstances, who had endeavored to conceal his poverty.

DEAR SIR,

I am extremely concerned to find you have so ill an opinion of me, as to hide your misfortunes, and let me hear of them from another hand. I know not how to interpret your conduct, as it makes me fear you never esteemed my friendship, if you could imagine that any alteration in your circumstances should ever be able to change my love. I had a different opinion of our mutual obligations to each other, and should have thought it an injury to your generous nature, had I concealed any thing concerning myself from you, though it might have lessened me in your esteem. I hoped, till now, you had put the same confidence in me, who had nothing to re-

commend me to your favor, but plain sincerity of soul; and whose sole design was, to promote the happiness of my friend.

I dare not quarrel with you now, lest you should consider me as taking the advantage of you in your present distress, and induce you to break off a correspondence as dear to me as ever; and this leads me to say something of real friendship in general. Real friendship is not confined to any station in life; it is common in the meanest cottage, and has even sometimes been found in the palace. Simplicity of manners, and integrity in all our actions, naturally lead us to expect sincerity in the conduct of those with whom we are any way connected. The imperfections incident to human nature are so numerous, that we are solicitous of finding some person to whom we can unbosom our minds, and lay open the inmost recesses of our hearts. A real friend, in order to preserve the character he has assumed, will, in the first place, endeavor to discharge every duty incumbent upon him to all his fellow creatures. But still there is something wanting; and although we may be philanthropists in general, yet we like to place our affections on one particular object.

Why, my friend, any suspicion of my sincerity? Why did you conceal your distress from me? Friendship is of too sacred a nature to be trifled with, and the man who does not act consistent with his professions, prostitutes that amiable appellation. No mental reservation can be used in friendship, for whenever that happens, there is some doubt of sincerity, which, for the most part, ends either in a total indifference, or which is infinitely worse, an absolute hatred. I am sorry to say, that there are few people who either know or value the blessings of friend-

ship; if they did they would not, upon every frivolous occasion, find fault with the conduct of their fellow creatures.

At present, my dear friend, let my purse, however empty, be at your service, but let it never be more open than my heart. Conceal nothing from me, and all I have is yours: We were once friends, let us only remain so. Let me hear an account from you of your present circumstances, and my last shilling shall be spent in your service. Let the sincerity of my friendship be estimated only according to my actions, and if it shall appear that I have acted inconsistent with the sacred name of friendship, let me be for ever blotted out of your memory.

I am, sir, your sincere well wisher.

LETTER 165.

From a Gentleman lately returned from his travels, to his Friend, concerning Loyalty.

DEAR SIR,

It is very natural for the most curious travellers, after having spent some time abroad, to return with joy to their own country; but much more pleasant to me who did not go out of it by my own choice, but impelled by necessity.

When I returned, I hoped to find a general tranquillity among all ranks of people, and the animosities which subsisted when I went abroad, buried in perpetual oblivion. But I was strangely amazed to find the same spirit of murmuring as before. In one place the ministry are said to be seeking the loaves and fishes, and the patriots are endeavoring to dispossess them, with no other

view than to obtain their places. In one place we are told, that the ministers are a set of abandoned debauchees, and when the courtiers return the compliment to the patriots, the answer is, that a man may be an abandoned villain, a scandal to human nature, and yet a lover of his country. If you ask these several sorts of gentlemen what it is they wish for, you will find they have several ends in view. Some of them are men that have, by their extravagance, spent their fortunes, lost their credit, and therefore are in a violent haste for a war, in hopes, by plunder to replenish their pockets, like vultures who keep hovering over a dead carcass. They speak aloud just as they would have it, that all things are running to confusion. Others, like crows, love the fruits of the earth, but hate the smell of gunpowder; and these affirm as positively, though not so loudly, that we shall be inevitably ruined unless there is a change of the ministry. A third sort of this disaffected party, are a set of men like moles, that are always digging under ground, and no kind of soil can escape their talons.

Besides these, there is another party, whose designs are extremely foreign to any of the rest, and yet they are equally pernicious. There are several select companies of drunkards, who instead of minding their own business, assemble at different ale houses to settle the state of the nation, over a tankard of porter, or a bowl of punch. These may properly be called,

A pamper'd people, and debauched with ease,
No king can govern, and no God can please.

The above gentry are a real nuisance to human society, as they raise groundless fears in the minds of peaceable people who think it high time to feel their grievances, when they really happen.

No man can be more a friend, and even an advocate for the liberties of his country; than myself; and a patriotic magistrate, will, at all times, attend to the voice of the people, and, as a common father, love to be put in mind of his duty. But, when I find no fault committed by the administration, except such as is inseparably connected with human nature, I consider the abettors as real incendiaries who want to create dissensions amongst a brave united people.

For my own part, when I consider the present distracted state of affairs, and compare it with my duty as an individual, I am ready to cry out with the Psalmist, "May peace be within her walls, and prosperity within her palaces!" May they prosper who wish her well, and seek her peace continually! and in this wish, I doubt not but you will join heartily with

Your friend.

LETTER 166.

To a young man on Prudence.

MY YOUNG FRIEND,

The first thing necessary for a happy progress in business, is prudence or discretion. This, as it relates to trade, is a habit of mind enabling us to conduct our affairs in the wisest and best manner; or, in other words, it is pursuing the proper end, by the best means, and in the fittest time. It is not that serpentine craft, which lies in wait to captivate the unwary, impose upon the credulous, and overreach the weak understanding, and which teaches men to increase their wealth by injustice and fraud. God has given to man no superior wisdom or skill, to be directed to ends so contrary to his own nature and

will, and the good of mankind. But it is that honest wisdom, which is consistent with a good conscience, and an ornament to it. Prudence is subtilty refined from all those base and unjust views, as subtilty is wisdom corrupted by them. Wisdom, like light, is pleasant to behold ; it quickens the spirits, disposes the mind to a cheerful activity, and makes the passages of life clear and open. Under God, it enables us to acquire and enjoy many advantages we could not otherwise attain ; and obviates many evils and inconveniences to which we are liable. Whatever good arises from deliberate advice, sagacious foresight, stable resolution, and orderly conduct, wisdom confers. Whatever evils proceed from blind ignorance, false presumption, unwary credulity, precipitate rashness, wisdom prevents. It begets in us the reasonable hope of success ; and quiets the heart in the want of it. God having given to man a considering mind, sagacity and foresight, which he has denied to other creatures, they who act foolishly, so far degrade the man, and resemble the brute ; and many are ruined by their own indiscretion and folly, without any other visible means than that they were themselves rash, wilful, or weak. But, when our intentions are good, and the means proper, we may hope that allwise goodness will prosper us ; our success will then be doubly pleasant. Or, if we are disappointed, we shall disarm the affliction of what makes the deepest wound, the reflection that it was caused by our own folly. It is not supposed that our wisdom and prudence can control the events of divine Providence, or make our dependance upon God unnecessary. But it will hinder us from being our own destroyers, and is the means which the governor of the world uses to bestow prosperity and happiness where he is disposed to vouchsafe the enjoy-

ment of them. A considerate head is often more successful than the laborious hand ; though both should be united in most employments.

Your sincere friend-

LETTER 167.

To the same, on the vicissitudes of Human Life.

MY YOUNG FRIEND,

Remember that human life is but as the journey of a day. We rise in the morning of youth, full of vigor and expectation, set forward with spirit and hope, with gaiety and with diligence, and travel on awhile in the straight road of piety, towards the mansions of rest. In a short time we remit our fervor, and endeavor to find some mitigation of our duty, and some more easy means of obtaining the same end. We then relax our vigor, and resolve to be no more terrified with crimes at a distance, but rely upon our own constancy, and venture to approach what we resolve never to touch. We thus enter the bowers of ease, and repose in the shades of security. Here the heart softens and vigilance subsides ; we are then willing to inquire, whether another advance cannot be made, and whether we may not at least turn our eyes upon the gardens of pleasure. We approach them with scruple and hesitation ; we enter them timorous and trembling, and always hope to pass through them without losing the road of virtue, which we for a while keep in our sight, and to which we propose to return. But temptation succeeds temptation, and one compliance prepares us for another ; we, in time, lose the happiness of innocence, and solace our disquiet with sensual gratifications.

By degrees we let fall the remembrance of our original intention, and quit the only adequate object of rational desire. We entangle ourselves in business, immerge ourselves in luxury, and rove through the labyrinths of inconstancy, till the darkness of old age begins to invade us, and disease and anxiety obstruct our way, we then look back upon our lives with horror, with sorrow, with repentance; and wish, but too-often vainly wish, that we had not forsaken the ways of virtue. Happy are they, my friend, who learn not to despair, but shall remember, that though the day is past, and their strength is wasted, there yet remains one effort to be made; that reformation is never hopeless, nor sincere endeavors ever unassisted; that the wanderer may at length return after all his errors; and that he who implores strength and courage from above, shall find danger and difficulty give way before him.

Yours, sincerely.

LETTER 168.

Dr. Johnson to Mrs. Thrale, on the value of long established Friendship.

DEAR MADAM,

Since you have written to me with the attention and tenderness of ancient time, your letters give me a great part of the pleasure which a life of solitude admits. You will never bestow a share of your good will on one who deserves better. Those that have loved longest love best. A sudden blaze of kindness may, by a single blast of coldness, be extinguished, but that fondness, which length of time has connected with many circumstances and oc-

casions, though it may for a while be suppressed by disgust or resentment, with, or without a cause, is hourly revived by accidental recollection. To those that have lived long together, every thing heard, and every thing seen, recalls some pleasure communicated, or some benefit conferred, some petty quarrel, or some slight endearment. Esteem of great powers, or amiable qualities newly discovered, may embroider a day or week, but a friendship of twenty years, is interwoven with the texture of life. A friend may be often found and lost, but an *old friend* never can be found, and nature has provided that he cannot easily be lost.

I have not forgotten the Davenants, though they seem to have forgotten me. I began very early to tell them what they have commonly found to be true. I am sorry to hear of their building. I have always warned those whom I loved, against that mode of ostentatious waste.

You seem to mention Lord Kilmurry, as a stranger. We were at his house in Cheshire; and he one day dined with Sir Lynch. What he tells me of the epigram is not true, but perhaps he does not know it to be false. Do not you remember how he rejoiced in having *no* park; he could not disoblige his neighbors by sending them *no* venison.

The frequency of death to those who look upon it in the leisure of Arcadia, is very dreadful. We all know what it should teach us; let us all be diligent to learn. Lucy Porter has lost her brother. But whom have I lost? Let me not now remember. Let not your loss be added to the mournful catalogue. Write soon again to, madam,

Yours, &c.

LETTER 169.

Mr. Locke to Mr. Molyneux, on the advantages of Friendship.

SIR,

You look with the eyes, and speak the language of friendship, when you make my life of much more concern to the world than your own. I take it, as it is, for an effect of your kindness, and so shall not accuse you of compliment ; the mistakes and over valuing of good will being always sincere, even when they exceed what common truth allows. Thus on my side I must beg you to believe that my life would be much more pleasant and useful to me if you were within my reach, that I might sometimes enjoy your conversation, and, upon twenty occasions, lay my thoughts before you, and have the advantage of your judgment. I cannot complain that I have not my share of friends of all ranks, and such whose interest, assistance, affection, and opinions too, in fit cases, I can rely on. But methinks, for all this, there is one place vacant, that I know nobody that would fill so well as yourself ; I want one near me to talk freely with, *de quolibet ente* ; to propose to the extravagances that rise in my mind ; one with whom I would debate several doubts and questions, to see what was in them. Meditating by one's self is like digging in the mine ; it often, perhaps, brings up maiden earth, which never came near the light before ; but whether it contain any metal in it, is never so well tried as in conversation with a knowing, judicious friend, who carries about him the true touchstone, which is love of truth in a clear thinking head. Men of parts and judgment the world usually gets hold of, and by a great mistake, that their abilities of mind are

lost, if not employed in the pursuit of wealth and power, engage them in the ways of fortune and interest, which usually leave but little freedom or leisure of thought for pure disinterested truth. And such who give themselves up frankly, and in earnest, to the full latitude of real knowledge, are not every where to be met with. Wonder not, therefore, that I wish so much for you in my neighborhood. I should be too happy in a friend of your make, were you within my reach. But yet I cannot but wish that business would once bring you within distance; and it is a pain to me to think of leaving the world, without the happiness of seeing you.

I do not wonder that a kinsman of yours should magnify civilities that scarce deserve that name; I know not wherein they consisted, but in being glad to see one who was related to you, and was himself very ingenious; either of those was a title to more than I did, or could do. I am sorry I have not yet had an opportunity to wait on him in London, and I fear he should be gone before I am able to get thither. This long winter and cold spring has hung very heavy upon my lungs, and they are not yet in a case to be ventured in London air, which must be my excuse for not waiting upon him and Dr. Ashe yet.

Yours, &c.

LETTER 170.

The Bishop of Rochester to Mr. Pope.

The Tower, April 10, 1729.

DEAR SIR,

I thank you for all the instances of your friendship, both before and since my misfortunes. A little time

will complete them, and separate you and me for ever. But in what part of the world soever I am, I will live mindful of your sincere kindness to me ; and will please myself with the thought, that I still live in your esteem and affection as much as ever I did ; and that no accident of life, no distance of time or place, will alter you in that respect. It never can me ; who have loved and valued you ever since I knew you, and shall not fail to do it when I am not allowed to tell you so ; as the case will soon be. Give my faithful services to Dr. Arbuthnot, and thanks for what he sent me, which was much to the purpose, if any thing can be said to be to the purpose, in a case that is already determined. Let him know my defence will be such, that neither my friends need blush for me, nor my enemies have great occasion of triumph, though sure of the victory. I shall want his advice before I go abroad, in many things, but I question whether I shall be permitted to see him, or any body, but such as are absolutely necessary towards the despatch of my private affairs. If so, God bless you both ; and may no part of the ill fortune that attends me, ever pursue either of you ! I know not but I may call upon you at my hearing, to say somewhat about my way of spending my time at the deanery, which did not seem calculated towards managing plots and conspiracies. But of that I shall consider ; you and I have spent many hours together, upon much pleasanter subjects ; and, that I may preserve the old custom, I shall not part with you now till I have closed this letter with three lines of Milton, which you, I know, readily, and not without some degree of concern, apply to your ever affectionate friend.

Some nat'ral tears he dropt, but wip'd them soon ;
The world was all before him where to choose
His place of rest ; and Providence his guide,

LETTER 171.

Dr. Arbuthnot to Mr. Pope.

DEAR SIR,

I little doubt of your kind concern for me, nor of that of the lady you mention. I have nothing to repay my friends with at present, but prayers and good wishes. I have the satisfaction to find that I am as officiously served by my friends as he that has thousands to leave in legacies, besides the assurance of their sincerity. God Almighty has made my bodily distress as easy as a thing of that nature can be. I have found some relief, at least, sometimes, from the air of this place. My nights are bad, but many poor creatures are worse.

As for you, my good friend, I think, since our first acquaintance, there have not been any of those little suspicions or jealousies that often affect the sincerest friendships; I am sure not on my side. I must be so sincere as to own, that though I could not help valuing you for those talents which the world prizes, yet they were not the foundation of my friendship; they were quite of another sort; nor shall I at present offend you by enumerating them! And I make it my last request, that you will continue that noble disdain and abhorrence of vice which you seem naturally endued with, but still with a due regard to your own safety and study more to inform than to chastise, though the one cannot be effected without the other. Lord Bathurst I have always honored, for every good quality that a person of his rank ought to have; pray give my respects and kindest wishes to the family. My venison stomach is gone, but I have those about me, and often with me, who will be very glad of

his present ; if it is left at my house it will be transmitted safe to me.

A recovery in my case, and at my age, is impossible ; the kindest wish of my friends is *euthanasia* ; living or dying I shall always be your

Sincere friend.

LETTER 172.

Letter from Mr. West to Mr. Gray, soliciting his correspondence.

SIR,

You use me very cruelly ; you have sent me but one letter since I have been at Oxford, and that too agreeable not to make me sensible how great my loss is in not having more. Next to seeing you is the pleasure of seeing your hand writing ; next to hearing you is the pleasure of hearing from you. Really and sincerely I wonder at you, that you thought it not worth while to answer my letter. I hope this will have better success in behalf of your quondam school fellow ; in behalf of one who has walked hand in hand with you, like the two children in the wood,

Thro' many a flow'ry path and shelly grot,
Where learning lull'd us in her private maze.

The very thought, you see, tips my pen with poetry, and brings Eton to my view. Consider me very seriously here in a strange country, inhabited by things that call themselves doctors and masters of arts ; a country flowing with syllogisms and ale, and where Horace and Virgil are equally unknown ; consider me, I say, in this melancholy light, and then think if something be not due to

Yours, &c.

LETTER 173.

Dr. Johnson to Mrs. Thrale, on the death of her Husband.

DEAREST MADAM,

Of your injunctions to pray for you and write to you, I hope to leave neither unobserved ; and I hope to find you willing, in a short time, to alleviate your trouble, by some other exercise of mind. I am not without my part of the calamity. No death since that of my wife has ever oppressed me like this. But let us remember that we are in the hands of Him, who knows when to give and when to take away ; who will look upon us with mercy, through all our variations of existence, and who invites us to call on him in the day of trouble. Call upon him in this great revolution of life, and call with confidence. You will then find comfort for the past, and support for the future. He that has given you happiness in marriage to a degree of which, without personal knowledge I should have thought the description fabulous, can give you another mode of happiness as a mother ; and at last the happiness of losing all temporal cares in thoughts of an eternity in Heaven.

I do not exhort you to reason yourself into tranquillity. We must first pray, and then labor ; first implore the blessing of God, and those means which he puts into our hands. Cultivated ground has few weeds ; a mind occupied by lawful business, has little room for useless regret.

We read the will to-day ; but I will not fill my first letter with any other account than that, with all my zeal for your advantage, I am satisfied ; and that the other executors, more used to consider property than I, commended it for wisdom and equity. Yet why should I not tell

you, that you have five hundred pounds for your immediate expenses, and two thousand pounds a year, with both the houses, and all the goods ?

Let us pray for one another, that the time, whether long or short, that shall yet be granted us, may be well spent ; and that when this life, which at the longest is very short, shall come to an end, a better may begin which shall never end.

I am, dearest madam,
Yours, &c..

LETTER 174.

Mrs. Whiteway to Lord Orrery, describing the melancholy situation of Dean Swift.

MY LORD,

The easy manner in which you reproach me, for not acquainting you with the poor dean's situation, lays a fresh obligation upon me ; yet, mean as an excuse is for a fault I shall attempt one to your lordship, and only for this reason, that you may not think me capable of neglecting any thing you could command me. I told you in my last letter the dean's understanding was quite gone, and I feared the further particulars would only shock the tenderness of your nature, and the melancholy scene make your heart ache, as it has often done mine. I was the last person whom he knew, and when that part of his memory failed, he was so outrageous at seeing any body, that I was forced to leave him, nor could he rest for a night or two after seeing any person ; so that all the attendance which I could pay him, was calling twice a week to inquire after his health, and to observe that proper care was

taken of him, and durst only look at him while his back was towards me, fearing to discompose him. He walked ten hours a day, and would not eat or drink if his servant stayed in the room. His meat was served up ready cut, and sometimes it would lie an hour on the table before he would touch it, and then eat it walking. About six weeks ago, in one night's time, his left eye swelled as large as an egg, and the lid, Mr. Nicholls, his surgeon, thought would mortify, and many large biles appeared upon his arms and body. The torture he was in is not to be described. Five persons could scarce hold him for a week from tearing out his own eyes; and, for near a month, he did not sleep two hours in twenty four; yet a moderate appetite continued, and what is more to be wondered at, the last day of his illness he knew me perfectly well, took me by the hand, called me by name, and showed the same pleasure as usual in seeing me. I asked him if he would give me a dinner? He said, to be sure, my old friend. Thus he continued that day, and he knew the doctor and surgeon, and all his family so well, that Mr. Nicholls thought it possible to call for what he wanted, and bear some of his old friends to amuse him. But alas! this pleasure to me was but of short duration; for the next day or two it was all over, and proved to be only pain that had roused him. He is now free from torture; his eye almost well, very quiet, and begins to sleep, but cannot, without great difficulty, be prevailed on to walk a turn about his room; and yet, in this way, the physicians think he may hold out for some time.

I am, my lord,

Your lordship's most obedient

Humble servant.

LETTER 175.

Dr. Johnson to the Honorable Mr. Wyndham, on his (Dr. Johnson's) recovery from illness.

The tenderness with which you have been pleased to treat me, through my long illness, neither health nor sickness can, I hope, make me forget; and you are not to suppose, after we parted you were no longer in my mind. But what can a sick man say, but that he is sick? His thoughts are necessarily concentrated in himself; he neither receives nor can give delight; his inquiries are after alleviations of pain, and his efforts are to catch some momentary comfort. Though I am now in the neighborhood of the Peak, you must expect no account of its wonders, of its hills, its waters, its caverns, or its mines; but I will tell you, dear sir, what I hope you will not hear with less satisfaction that, for about a week past, my asthma has been less afflictive.

Yours, &c.

LETTER 176.

Dr. Dodd to the King; written by Dr. Johnson.

SIR,

May it not offend your majesty, that the most miserable of men applies himself to your clemency, as his last hope, and his last refuge; that your mercy is most earnestly and humbly implored by a clergyman, whom your laws and judges have condemned to the horror and ignominy of a public execution.

I confess the crime, and own the enormity of its consequences, and the danger of its example. Nor have I the

confidence to petition for impunity ; but humbly hope, that public security may be established, without the spectacle of a clergyman dragged through the streets to a death of infamy, amidst the derision of the profligate and the profane ; and that justice may be satisfied with irrevocable exile, perpetual disgrace, and hopeless penury.

My life, sir, has not been useless to mankind ; I have benefited many. But my offences against God are numberless, and I have but little time for repentance. Preserve me, sir, by your prerogative of mercy, from the necessity of appearing unprepared at that tribunal before which kings and subjects must stand at last together. Permit me to hide my guilt in some obscure corner of a foreign country, where, if I can ever attain confidence to hope that my prayers will be heard, they shall be poured with all the fervor of gratitude for the life and happiness of your majesty.

I am, sir,

Your majesty's, &c.

LETTER 177.

Dr. Johnson to the Right Honorable Charles Jenkinson, now Earl of Liverpool.

SIR,

Since the conviction and condemnation of Dr. Dodd, I have had, by the intervention of a friend, some intercourse with him, and I am sure I shall lose nothing in your opinion by tenderness or commiseration. Whatever be the crime, it is not easy to have any knowledge of the delinquent without a wish that his life may be spared ; at least when no life has been taken away by him. I will, there-

fore, take the liberty of suggesting some reasons for which I wish this unhappy being to escape the utmost rigour of his sentence.

He is, so far as I can recollect, the first clergyman of our church, who has suffered public execution for immorality; and I know not whether it would not be more for the interest of religion to bury such an offender in the obscurity of perpetual exile, than to expose him in a cart, and on the gallows, to all who, for any reason, are enemies to the clergy.

The supreme power has, in all ages, paid some attention to the voice of the people; and that voice does not least deserve to be heard when it calls out for mercy. There is now a very general desire that Dodd's life should be spared. More is not wished; and, perhaps, this is not too much to be granted.

If you, sir, have any opportunity of enforcing these reasons, you may, perhaps, think them worthy of consideration; but, whatever you determine, I most respectfully entreat that you will be pleased to pardon this intrusion.

Sir,

Your most obedient,

And most humble servant.

LETTER 178.

Dr. Dodd to Dr. Johnson.

June 25th, midnight.

DEAR SIR,

Accept, thou *great* and *good* heart, my earnest and fervent thanks and prayers for all thy benevolent and kind efforts in my behalf. O! Dr. Johnson, as I sought your

knowledge at an early hour in life, would to heaven I had cultivated the love and acquaintance of so excellent a man ! I pray God, most sincerely, to bless you with the highest transports ; the infelt satisfaction of *humane* and benevolent exertions ! And admitted, as I trust I shall be, to the realms of bliss before you, I shall hail *your* arrival there with transports, and rejoice to acknowledge that you were my comforter, my advocate and my *friend* ! God be with you !

LETTER 179.

Dr. Johnson to Dr. Dodd, the evening previous to his Execution.

DEAR SIR,

That which is appointed to all men is now coming upon you. Outward circumstances, the eyes and the thoughts of men, are below the notice of an immortal being, about to stand the trial for eternity, before the Supreme Judge of heaven and earth. Be comforted ; your crime, morally or religiously considered, has no very deep dye of turpitude ; it corrupted no man's principles ; it attacked no man's life ; it involved only a temporary and reparable injury. Of this, and all other sins, you are earnestly to repent ; and may God, who knoweth our frailty, and desireth not our death, accept your repentance for the sake of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

In requital of those well intended offices which you are pleased so emphatically to acknowledge, let me beg that you will make in your devotions one petition for my eternal welfare.

am, dear sir,

Your affectionate servant.

LETTER 180.

From James Howell to Mr. R. S. on his neglecting to answer his letters.

SIR,

I sent you a letter on the 3d current, but it was not answered; I sent another of the 13th, like a second arrow, to find out the first, but I know not what's become of either. I send this to find the other two; and if this fail, there shall go no more out of my quiver. If you forget me I have cause to complain, and more if you remember me; to forget, may proceed from the frailty of memory; not to answer me, when you mind me, is pure neglect, and no less than a piacle. So I rest yours easily to be recovered.

LETTER 181.

From a Gentleman who had long neglected the correspondence of a Friend.

DEAR SIR,

When I look back to the date of your two last, and reflect on the length of time they have remained unanswered, I feel the most poignant sensations of shame and regret; I will not aggravate the impropriety of my omission by amusing you with childish excuses of illness and business, but confess that an unaccountable negligence, and foolish-habit of procrastination, have made me so inattentive. I throw myself on your kindness, to excuse my fault, to renew our interrupted correspondence, and must intreat you not to consider me as deficient in friend-

ship for you, though appearance goes so far towards my condemnation in that particular.

I beg it with an ill grace, but as my ease of mind depends on it, must request you to favor me with an answer to this as soon as possible ; let me know every thing which may have interested you since you wrote last ; I have many things to communicate, but am resolved to devote this letter to apology alone, and to the purpose of assuring you how sincerely I am,

Dear Sir,

Yours, affectionately.

LETTER 182.

From Dr. Johnson to Mr. Boswell, in answer to repeated requests that he would write.

DEAR SIR,

Why should you importune me so earnestly to write ? Of what importance can it be to hear of distant friends, to a man who finds himself welcome wherever he goes, and makes new friends faster than he can want them ? If to the delight of such universal kindness of reception, any thing can be added by knowing that you retain my good will, you may indulge yourself in the full enjoyment of that small addition.

I am glad that you have made the round of Litchfield with so much success ; the oftener you are seen the more you will be liked ; it was pleasing to me to read that Mrs. Aston was so well ; and that Lucy Porter was so glad to see you.

In the place where you now are, there is much to be observed ; and you will easily procure skilful directors. But what will you do to keep away the *black dog* that worries you at home ? If you would, in compliance with your father's advice, inquire into the old tenure, and old charters of Scotland, you would certainly open to yourself many striking scenes of the manners of the middle ages. The feudal system in a country half barbarous, is naturally productive of great anomalies in civil life. The knowledge of past times is naturally growing less in all cases not of public record ; and the past time of Scotland is so unlike the present, that it is always difficult for a Scotchman to image the economy of his grandfather. Do not be tardy nor negligent ; but gather up eagerly what can yet be found.

We have, I think, once talked of another prospect, a history of the late insurrection in Scotland, with all its incidents. Many falsehoods are passing into uncontradicted history. Voltaire, who loved a striking story, has told what he could not find to be true.

You may make collections for each of these projects, or for both, as opportunities occur, and digest them at your leisure. The great direction which Burton has left to melancholy men, like you, is this, *be not solitary ; be not idle* ; which I would thus modify ; if you are idle, be not solitary ; if you are solitary, be not idle.

There is a letter for you, from

Your humble servant.

LETTER 183.

The countess of Hertford to Dr. Burnett, occasioned by some meditations which he had sent her on the death of her son.

SIR,

I am very sensibly obliged by the kind compassion you express for me, under my heavy affliction. The meditations you have furnished me with, afford the strongest motives for consolation that can be offered to a person under my unhappy circumstances. The dearly lamented son I have lost, was the pride and joy of my heart ; but I hope I may be the more easily excused for looking on him in this light, since he was not so from the outward advantages he possessed, but from the virtues and rectitude of his mind. That which flattered me, in regard to him, was not drawn from his distinguished rank, nor the beauty of his person, but from the hopes that his example would have been serviceable to the cause of virtue, and would have shown the younger part of the world, that it was possible to be cheerful without being foolish or vicious, and to be religious without severity or melancholy. His whole life was one interrupted course of duty and affection to his parents ; and, when he found the hand of death upon him, his only regret was to think on the agonies which must rend their hearts ; for he was perfectly contented to leave the world, as his conscience did not reproach him with any presumptuous sins, and he hoped his errors would be forgiven. Thus he resigned his innocent soul into the hands of a merciful Creator, on the evening of his birth day, which completed his nineteenth year. You will not be surprised, sir, that the death

of such a son should occasion the deepest sorrow ; yet, at the same time, it leaves us the most comfortable assurance, that he is happier than our fondest wishes and care could have made him, which must enable us to support the remainder of years which it shall please God to allot to us here, without murmuring or discontent, and quicken our endeavors to prepare ourselves to follow to that happy place, where our dear, valuable child is gone before us. I beg the continuance of your prayers, and am,

Your grateful humble servant.

LETTER 184.

Mr. Gray (author of the Elegy in a country Churchyard) to his uncle, on the death of his aunt.

DEAR SIR,

The unhappy news I have just received from you equally surprises and afflicts me. I have lost a person I loved very much, and have been used to from my infancy ; but am much more concerned for your loss, the circumstances of which I forbear to dwell upon, as you must be too sensible of them yourself ; and will, I fear, more and more need a consolation that no one can give, except He who has preserved her to you so many years, and at last, when it was his pleasure, has taken her from us to himself ; and perhaps if we reflect on what she left in this life, we may look on this as an instance of his goodness both to her and to those who loved her. She might have languished many years before your eyes in a continual increase of pain and totally helpless ; she might have long wished to end her misery without being able to attain it ; or perhaps even lost all sense, and yet continued to breathe;

a sad spectacle to such as must have felt more for her than she could have done for herself. However you may deplore your own loss, yet think that she is at last easy and happy; and has now more occasion to pity us than we her. I hope, and beg you will support yourself with that resignation which we owe to Him, who, we have reason to believe, gave us our being for our good, and who deprives us of it with the same intention.

It will be a source of melancholy but pleasing consolation to you to reflect on the many virtues which your deceased partner possessed, the benevolent actions in which she was engaged, and the many pleasant hours which you have passed together.

I would come to you directly, but you do not say whether you desire I should or not; if you do, I beg I may know it, for there is nothing to hinder me, and I am in very good health.

Yours sincerely.

PART V.

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

LETTER 185.

From J. J. Rousseau, to a friend who had asked his opinion of duelling.

DEAR SIR,

Do not confound the sacred name of honor with this brutal prejudice, which places all the virtues in the point of the sword, and is proper only to make brave villains.

In what does this prejudice consist? In the most extravagant and barbarous opinion that ever entered into the human mind; namely, that all the duties of society are supplied by bravery; that a man is no longer a knave, a villain, or a slanderer; is humane, polite, and has every good quality, when he will fight; that a lie becomes truth, robbery becomes lawful, perfidy becomes honesty, and infidelity laudable, when supported sword in hand; that an affront is always repaired by a lunge, and that a man is never injured, provided he is killed. There is, I acknowledge, another kind, in which, gentility is mixed with cruelty, and where persons are killed by chance only, I mean fighting till blood is drawn only. Till blood

is drawn ! Good God ! and what wouldst thou do with this blood ? 'Cruel brute ! wouldst thou drink it ?

The most valiant heroes of antiquity never dreamed of revenging their personal injuries by single combat ; did Cæsar ever send a challenge to Cato, or Pompey to Cæsar, for so many reciprocal affronts ? or was the greatest captain of Greece dishonored by suffering himself to be threatened with a cane ? Different times, different customs : I know it ; but, are there now none but good ones ; and may we not inquire, whether these customs are such as real honor requires ? No ; honor is invariable ; it does not depend on prejudices, it can neither decay nor be revived ; it has an eternal source in the heart of the just man, and in the unalterable rule of his duties. If the most enlightened, bravest, and most virtuous people in the world, had no knowledge of it, I insist it is not an institution of honor ; but a detestable, barbarous fashion, worthy of its savage original. It remains to inquire, whether, when his own or another's life is at stake, an honest man follows the fashion ; and whether there is not more true courage in braving, than in complying with it. What would a man do, who is willing to comply with it, in places where a contrary custom prevails ? At Messina or Naples, he would wait for a man at the corner of a street, and stab him behind ; in these countries this is called bravery, and honor does not consist in being killed yourself by your enemy but in killing him.

'The just man whose life is spotless, and who will never show the least mark of cowardice, will refuse to soil his hands with manslaughter, and will on that account be the more honored ; ever ready to serve his country, protect the helpless, fulfil the most dangerous duties, and defend, on every just and honorable occasion, what is dear

to him at the expense of his life ; all his actions are accompanied with that unshaken firmness, which true courage alone possesses. Through the assurance of a good conscience, he walks bare faced, and neither avoids nor seeks his enemy ; he fears dying less than he fears doing a bad action ; he dreads the crime and not the danger ; if vile prejudices arise one moment against him, every day of his honorable life is a fresh witness which contradicts them ; and in so consistent a conduct, we judge of one action by all the others.

Men who are easily affronted, and so ready to offend others, are for the most part, very dishonest people ; who, for fear the world should show them openly the contempt, in which they are held, attempt to hide the infamy of their whole lives, by some affairs of honor.

Such a one makes an effort, and presents himself once, to obtain a right to hide himself the rest of his life ; true courage has more constancy and less eagerness ; is always what it ought to be , and wants neither to be excited nor restrained. The good man possesses it every where ; in battle against the enemy ; in company, in favor of the absent and truth ; in his bed against the attacks of pain and death. The force of soul which inspires him, is of use at all times ; it places virtue constantly above events, and does not consist in fighting, but in fearing nothing.

LETTER 186.

To a young Gentleman on his Marriage. By Mrs. Piozzi.

MY DEAR SIR,

I received the news of your marriage with infinite delight, and hope that the sincerity with which I wish you

happiness, may excuse the liberty I take in giving you a few rules, whereby more certainly to obtain it. I see you smile at my wrong-headed kindness, and reflecting on the charms of your bride, cry out in a rapture, that you are happy enough without my rules. I know you are ; but after one of the forty years which I hope you will pass pleasantly together, are over, this letter may come in turn, and rules for felicity may not be found unnecessary, however some of them may appear impracticable.

Could that kind of love be kept alive through a married state, which makes the charm of a single one, the sovereign good would no longer be sought for ; in the union of two faithful lovers it would be found. But reason shows us that this is impossible, and experience informs us that it never was so ; we must preserve it as long, and support it as happily as we can.

When your present violence of passion subsides, however, and a more cool and tranquil affection takes its place, be not hasty to censure yourself as indifferent, or to lament yourself as unhappy ; you have lost that only which it is impossible to retain, and it were graceless amid the pleasures of a prosperous summer to regret the blossoms of a transient spring. Neither unwarily condemn your bride's insipidity, till you have recollected that no object however sublime, no sounds however charming, can continue to transport us with delight, when they no longer strike us with novelty. The skill to renovate the powers of pleasing are said indeed to be possessed by some women in an eminent degree, but the artifices of maturity are seldom seen to adorn the innocence of youth ; you have made your choice, and ought to approve it.

Satiety follows quick upon the heels of possession ; and

to be happy, we must always have something in view. The *person* of your lady is already all your own, and will not grow more pleasing in your eyes, I doubt, though the rest of your sex will think her handsomer for these dozen years. Turn therefore all your attention to her *mind*, which daily grows brighter by polishing. Study some easy science together, and acquire a similarity of taste while you enjoy a community of pleasures. You will, by this means, have many images in common, and be freed from the necessity of separating to find amusement. Nothing is so dangerous to wedded love, as the possibility of either being happy out of the company of the other : endeavor, therefore, to cement the present intimacy on every side. Let your wife never be kept ignorant of your income, your expenses, your friendships or aversions ; let her know your very faults, but make them amiable by your virtues ; consider all concealment as a breach of fidelity ; let her never have any thing to *find out* in your character, and remember, that from the moment one of the partners turns spy upon the other, they have commenced a state of hostility.

Seek not for happiness in singularity ; and dread a refinement of wisdom as a deviation into folly. Listen not to those sages who advise you always to scorn the counsel of a woman, and if you comply with her requests pronounce you wife-ridden. Think not any privation, except of positive evil, and excellence ; and do not congratulate yourself that your wife is not a learned lady, or is wholly ignorant how to make a pudding. Cookery, and learning, are both good in their places, and may both be used with advantage.

With regard to expense I can only observe, that the money laid out in the purchase of distinction is seldom or

never profitably employed. We live in an age when splendid equipage and glittering furniture are grown too common to catch the notice of the meanest spectator; and for the greater ones, they only regard our wasteful folly with silent contempt, or open indignation. This may, perhaps, be a displeasing reflection, but the following consideration ought to make amends. The age we live in, says, I think, peculiar attention to the higher distinctions of wit, knowledge and virtue, to which we may more safely, more cheaply, and more honorably aspire. The giddy flirt of quality frets at the respect she sees paid to Lady Edgecombe, and the gay dunce sits pining for a partner, while Jones, the orientalist, leads up the ball.

I said that the person of your lady would not grow more pleasing to you, but pray let her never suspect that it grows less so; that a woman will pardon an affront to her understanding much sooner than one to her person, is well known; nor will any of us contradict the assertion. All our attainments, all our arts, are employed to gain and keep the heart of man; and what mortification can exceed the disappointment, if the end be not obtained? There is no reproof however pointed, no punishment however severe, that a woman of spirit will not prefer to neglect; and if she can endure it without complaint, it only proves that she means to make herself amends by the attention of others for the slights of her husband. For this and for every reason, it behoves a married man not to let his politeness fail, though his ardor may abate; but to retain, at least, that general civility towards his own lady which he is so willing to pay to every other, and not show a wife of eighteen or twenty years old, that every man in company can treat her with more complaisance than he who so often vowed to her eternal fondness.

It is not my opinion that a young woman should be indulged in every wild wish of her gay heart or giddy head, but contradiction may be softened by domestic kindness, and quiet pleasures substituted in the place of noisy ones. Public amusements are not indeed so expensive as is sometimes imagined, but they tend to alienate the minds of married people from each other. A well chosen society of friends and acquaintance, more eminent for virtue and good sense than for gaiety and splendor, where the conversation of the day may afford comment for the evening, seems the most rational pleasure this great town can afford.

That your own superiority should be always seen, but never felt, seems an excellent general rule. A wife should out-shine her husband in nothing, not even in her dress. If she happens to have a taste for the trifling distinction that finery can confer, suffer her not a moment to fancy, when she appears in public, that Sir Edward or the Colonel are finer gentlemen than her husband. The bane of married happiness among the city men in general has been, that finding themselves unfit for polite life, they transferred their vanity to their ladies, dressed them up gaily, and sent them out a gallanting, while the good man was to regale himself with port wine or rum punch, perhaps among mean companions, after the counting-house was shut; this practice produced the ridicule thrown on them in all our comedies and novels since commerce began to prosper. But now that I am so near the subject, a word or two on jealousy may not be amiss, for though not a failing of the present age's growth, yet the seeds of it are but too certainly sown in every warm bosom for us to neglect it as a fault of no consequence. If you are ever tempted to be jealous, watch your wife

narrowly, but never tease her : tell her your jealousy, but conceal your suspicion : Let her, in short, be satisfied that it is only your odd temper, and even troublesome attachment, that makes you follow her ; but let her not dream that you ever doubted seriously of her virtue, even for a moment. If she is disposed towards jealousy of you, let me beseech you to be always explicit with her, and never mysterious : be above delighting in her pain, nor do your business, nor pay your visits, with an air of concealment, when all you do might as well be proclaimed perhaps in the parish vestry. But I will hope better than this of your tenderness and of your virtue, and will release you from a lecture you have so very little need of, unless your extreme youth and my uncommon regard, will excuse it. And now farewell : make my kindest compliments to your wife, and be happy in proportion as happiness is wished you by,

Dear sir, &c.

LETTER 187.

From Dr. Franklin, to John Alleyne, Esq. on early Marriage.

DEAR JACK,

You desire, you say, my impartial thoughts on the subject of an early marriage, by way of answer to the numberless objections that have been made by the too many numerous persons to your own. You may remember when you consulted me on the occasion, that I thought youth on both sides to be no objection. Indeed, from the marriages that have fallen under my observation, I am rather inclined to think, that early ones stand the best chance of happiness. The temper and habits of the

young have not yet become so stiff and uncomplying, as when more advanced in life ; they form more easily to each other, and hence many occasions of disgust are removed. And if youth has less of that prudence which is necessary to manage a family, yet the parents and elder friends of young married persons are generally at hand to offer their advice, which amply supplies that defect ; and by early marriage, youth is sooner formed to regular life ; and possibly some of those accidents or connections, that might have injured the constitution, or reputation, or both, are thereby happily prevented. Particular circumstances of particular persons, may possibly sometimes make it prudent to delay entering into that state ; but in general, when nature has rendered our bodies fit for it, the presumption is in nature's favor, that she has not judged amiss in making us desire it. Late marriages, are often attended, too, with this further inconvenience, that there is not the chance that the parents shall live to see their offspring educated. "Late children," says the Spanish proverb, "are early orphans." A melancholy reflection to those whose case it may be ! With us in America, marriages are generally in the morning of life ; our children are therefore educated and settled in the world by noon ; and thus, our business being done, we have an afternoon and evening of cheerful leisure to ourselves, and just such as our friend at present enjoys. By these early marriages we are blest with more children ; and from the mode among us founded by nature, of every mother suckling and nursing her own child, more of them are raised. Hence the swift progress of population among us, unparalleled in Europe. In fine, I am glad you are married, and congratulate you most cordially upon it. You are now in the way of becoming a most use-

ful citizen, and you have escaped the unnatural state of celibacy for life ; the fate of many here, who never intended it, but who having too long postponed the change of their condition, find, at length, that it is too late to think of it, and so live all their lives in a situation that greatly lessens a man's value. An odd volume to a set of books bears not the value of its proportion to the set : What think you of the odd half of a pair of scissors ? It can't well cut any thing ; it may possibly serve to scrape a trencher.

Pray make my compliments and best wishes acceptable to your bride. I am old and heavy, or I should ere this have presented them in person. I shall make but small use of the old man's privilege, that of giving advice to younger friends. Treat your wife always with respect ; it will procure respect to you, not only from her, but from all that observe it. Never use a slighting expression to her, even in jest ; for slights in jest after repeated bandyings are apt to end in anger earnest. Be studious in your profession, and you will be learned. Be industrious and frugal, and you will be rich. Be sober and temperate, and you will be healthy. Be in general virtuous, and you will be happy. At least, you will by such conduct, stand the best chance for such consequences. I pray God to bless you both ! being ever your affectionate friend.

LETTER 188.

On Marriage. Ascribed to the Rev. John Witherspoon, late President of Princeton College.

DEAR SIR,

I offer with some hesitation, a few reflections upon the married state. I express myself thus, because the subject has been so often and so fully treated, and by writers of the first class, it may be thought nothing now remains to be said that can merit attention. My only apology is, that what I offer is the fruit of real observation and personal reflection. It is not a copy of any man's writings, but of my own thoughts; and therefore if the sentiments should not be in themselves wholly new, they may possibly appear in a light not altogether common. I shall give you them in the way of aphorisms or observations; and subjoin to each a few thoughts by way of proof or illustration.

1. Nothing can be more contrary to reason or public utility, than the conversation and writings of those who turn matrimony into ridicule; yet it is in many cases as weakly defended, as it is unjustly attacked.

Those who treat marriage with ridicule, act in direct and deliberate opposition to the order of providence, and to the constitution of the society of which they are members. The true reason why they are borne with so patiently, is, that the Author of our nature has implanted in us instinctive propensities, which are by much too strong for their feeble attacks. But if we are to estimate the malignity of a man's conduct or sentiments, not from their effect, but from their natural tendency, and his inward disposition, it is not easy to imagine any thing more crim-

inal, than an attempt to bring marriage into disesteem. It is plainly an effort, not only to destroy the happiness, but to prevent the existence of human nature. A man who continues through life in a single state, ought, in justice, to endeavor to satisfy the public that his case is singular, and that he has some insuperable obstacle to plead in excuse. If, instead of this, he reasons in defence of his own conduct, and takes upon him to condemn that of others, it is at once incredible and absurd: that is to say, he can scarcely be believed to be sincere. And whether he be sincere or not, he deserves to be detested.

In support of the last part of my remark, let it be observed, that those who write in defence of marriage usually give such sublime and exalted descriptions, as are not realized in one case of a thousand; and therefore cannot be a just motive to a considerate man. Instead of insisting on the absolute necessity of marriage for the service of the state, and the solid advantages that arise from it, in ordinary cases, they give us a certain refined idea of felicity, which hardly exists any where but in the writer's imagination. Even the Spectator, than whom there is hardly in our language a more just and rational writer, after saying many excellent things in defence of marriage, scarcely ever fails to draw the character of a lady in such terms, that I may safely say not above one that answers the description is to be found in a parish, or perhaps a county. Now, is it not much better to leave the matter to the force of nature, than to urge it by such arguments as these? Is the manner of thinking induced by such writings, likely to hasten, or postpone a man's entering into the marriage state?

There is also a fault I think to be found in almost every writer who speaks in favor of the female sex, that they

over-rate the charms of the outward form. This is the case in all romances ; a class of writings to which the world is very little indebted. The same thing may be said of plays, where the heroine for certain, and often all the ladies that are introduced, are represented as inimitably beautiful. Even Mr. Addison himself in his admirable description of Marcia, which he puts in the mouth of Juba, though it begins with,

'Tis not a set of features or complexion, &c.
yet could not help inserting

True she is fair ; Oh, how divinely fair !

Now, I apprehend this is directly contrary to what should be the design of every moral writer. Men are naturally too apt to be carried away with the admiration of a beautiful face. Must it not therefore, confirm them in this error, when beauty is made an essential part of every amiable character ? The preference such writers pretend to give to the mental qualities, goes but a little way to remedy the evil. If they are never separated in the description, wherever men find the one, they will presume upon the other. But is this according to truth, or agreeable to experience ? What vast numbers of the most valuable women are to be found, who are by no means "divinely fair ?" Are these all to be neglected then ? Or is it not certain, from experience, that there is not a single quality, on which matrimonial happiness depends so little, as outward form ? Every other quality that is good, will go a certain length to atone for what is bad ; as, for example, if a woman is active and industrious in her family, it will make a husband bear with more patience a little anxiety of countenance, or fretfulness of temper, though in themselves disagreeable. But (always supposing the

honeymoon to be over) I do not think that beauty atones in the least degree for any bad quality whatsoever; it is, on the contrary, an aggravation of them, being considered a breach of faith, or deception, by holding out a false signal.

2. In the married state in general, there is not so much happiness as young lovers dream of; nor is there by far so much unhappiness, as loose authors universally suppose.

The first part of this aphorism will probably be easily admitted. Before mentioning, however, the little I have to say upon it, I beg leave to observe, that it would be quite wrong to blame the tenderness and fervency of affection by which the sexes appear to be drawn to each other, and that generous devotedness of hearts which is often to be seen on one, and sometimes on both sides. This is nature itself; and when under the restraint of reason, and government of prudence, may be greatly subservient to the future happiness of life. But there is certainly an extravagance of sentiment and language on this subject that is at once ridiculous in itself, and the proper cause, in due time, of wretchedness and disappointment.

Let any man who has outlived these sensations himself, and has leisure to be amused, dip a little into the love songs that have been composed and published, from Anacreon to the present day, and what a fund of entertainment he will find provided for him! The heathen gods and goddesses are the standing and lawful means of celebrating the praises of a mistress; before whom, no doubt, Venus for beauty, and Minerva for wisdom, must go for nothing. Every image in nature has been called up to heighten our idea of female charms—the paleness of the lily, the freshness of the rose, the blush of the vio-

let, and the vermilion of the peach. This is even still nothing. One of the most approved topics of a lovesick writer is, that all nature fades and mourns at the absence of his fair, and puts on a new bloom at her approach. All this, we know well, has place only in his imagination; for nature proceeds quietly in her course, without minding him and his charmer in the least. But we are not yet done. The glory of the heavenly orbs, the lustre of the sun himself, and even the joys of heaven, are frequently and familiarly introduced, to express a lover's happiness or hopes. Flames, darts, arrows, and lightning from a female eye, have been expressions as old at least as the art of writing, and are still in full vogue. Some of these we can find no other fault with than that they are a little *outré*, as the French express it; but I confess I have sometimes been surprised at the choice of lightning, because it is capable of a double application, and may put us in mind that some wives have lightning in their eyes sufficient to terrify the husband, as well as the maids have to consume the lover.

Does not all this plainly show that young persons are apt to indulge themselves in romantic expectations of a delight both extatic and permanent, such as never did and never can exist? And does it not at the same time expose matrimony to the scoffs of libertines, who, knowing that these raptures must have an end, think it sufficient to disparage the state itself, that some inconsiderate persons have not met with in it what it was never intended to bestow?

I proceed, therefore, to observe that there is not by far so much unhappiness in the married state in general, as loose authors universally suppose. I choose to state the argument in this manner, because it is much more satis-

factory than drawing pictures of the extremes on either hand. It signifies very little, on the one hand, to describe the state of a few persons distinguished for understanding, successful in life, respected by the public, and dear to one another; or on the other, those hateful brawls which by and by produce an advertisement in the newspapers, "Whereas my wife, Sarah, &c." If we would treat of this matter with propriety, we must consider how it stands among the bulk of mankind. The proposition, then, I mean to establish, is, that there is much less unhappiness in the matrimonial state than is often apprehended and indeed as much real comfort as there is any ground to expect.

To support this truth, I observe, that taking mankind throughout, we find much more satisfaction and cheerfulness in the married than in the single. In proportion to their numbers, I think of those grown up to maturer years, or past the meridian of life, there is a much greater degree of peevishness and discontent, whimsicalness and peculiarity, in the last than in the first. The prospect of continuing single till the end of life, narrows the mind, and closes the heart. I knew an instance of a gentleman of good estate, who lived single till he was past forty, and he was esteemed by all his neighbors not only frugal, but mean in some parts of his conduct. This same person afterwards marrying and having children, every body observed that he became liberal and open-hearted on the change, when one would have thought he had a stronger motive than before to hoard up. On this a neighbor of his made a remark, as a philosopher, that every ultimate passion is stronger than an intermediate one; that a single person loves wealth immediately on its own account;

whereas a parent can scarcely help preferring his children before it, and valuing it only for their sakes.

This leads me to observe, that marriage must be the source of happiness, as being the immediate cause of many other relations, the most interesting and delightful. I cannot easily figure to myself any man who does not look upon it as the first of earthly blessings, to have children, to be the objects of attachment and care when they are young and to inherit his name and fortune, when he himself must, in the course of nature, go off the stage. Does not this very circumstance give unspeakable dignity to each parent in the other's eye, and serve to increase and confirm that union, which youthful passion, and less durable motives, first occasioned to take place? I rather choose to mention this argument, because neither exalted understandings, nor elegance of manners, are necessary to give it force. It is felt by the peasant as well as by the prince; and, if we believe some observers on human life, its influence is not less, but greater in the lower than in the higher ranks.

Before I proceed to any further remarks, I must say a few words, to prevent or remove a deception, which very probably leads many into error on this subject. It is no other than a man's supposing what would not give him happiness, cannot give it to another. Because, perhaps, there are few married women, whose persons, conversation, and manners, are altogether to his taste, he takes upon him to conclude, that the husbands, in these numerous instances, must lead a miserable life. Is it needful to say any thing to show the fallacy of this? The tastes and dispositions of men are as various as their faces; and therefore what is displeasing to one, may be, not barely tolerable, but agreeable to another. I have

known a husband delighted with his wife's fluency and poignancy of speech in scolding her servants, and another who was not able to hear the least noise of the kind with patience.

Having obviated this mistake, it will be proper to observe, that through all the lower and middle ranks of life, there is generally a good measure of matrimonial or domestic comfort, when their circumstances are easy, or their estate growing. This is easily accounted for, not only from their being free from one of the most usual causes of peevishness and discontent, but because the affairs of a family are very seldom in a thriving state, unless both contribute their share of diligence; so that they have not only a common happiness to share, but a joint merit in procuring it. Men may talk in raptures of youth and beauty, wit and sprightliness, and a hundred other shining qualities; but after seven years cohabitation, not one of them is to be compared to good family management, which is seen at every meal, and felt every hour in the husband's purse. To this, however, I must apply the caution given above. Such a wife may not appear quite killing to a stranger on a visit. There are a few distinguished examples of women of first rate understandings, who have all the elegance of court breeding in the parlor, and all the frugality and activity of a farmer's wife in the kitchen; but I have not found this to be the case in general. I learned from a certain author many years ago, that "a great care of household affairs generally spoils the easy manner of a fine lady;" and I have seen no reason to disbelieve it since.

Once more: so far as I am able to form a judgment, wherever there is a great and confessed superiority of understanding on one side, with some good nature on the

other, there is domestic peace. It is of little consequence whether the superiority be on the side of the man or the woman, provided the ground of it be manifest. The contentions that are fiercest are generally where the just title to command is not quite clear. I am sensible I may bring ridicule upon myself here. It will be alleged that I have clearly established the right of the female over that species of husbands, known by the name of henpecked. But I beg that the nature of my position may be carefully considered. I have said, "Wherever there is a great and confessed superiority of understanding." Should not a man comply with reason, when offered by his wife, as well as any body else? Or ought he to be against reason, because his wife is for it? I, therefore, take the liberty of rescuing from the number of the henpecked, those who ask the advice, and follow the direction of their wives in most cases, because it is really better than any they could give themselves; reserving those only under the old denomination, who, through fear are subject, not to reason, but to passion and ill humor. I shall conclude this observation with saying, for the honor of the female sex, that I have known a greater number of instances of just and amiable conduct, in case of a great inequality of judgment, when the advantage was on the side of the woman, than when it was on the side of the man. I have known many women of judgment and prudence, who carried it with the highest respect and decency to weak and capricious husbands;—but not many men of distinguished abilities who did not betray, if not contempt, at least great indifference towards weak or trifling wives.

Some other observations I had intended to make upon this subject, but as the letter has been drawn out to a

greater length than I expected, and they will come in with at least equal propriety under other maxims, I conclude at present.

I am, Sir, &c.

LETTER 189.

An ironical letter to a Slanderer.

SIR,

The particular assiduity you have displayed in defending my character, when a middle aged, squint-eyed, short, impertinent fellow was practising every unjust means, and exerting all his feeble endeavors to sully it, deserves my thanks. I own myself your debtor so much that I am apprehensive that it will never be in my power to repay you ; I wish every person would follow your example ; how noble, how illustrious the pattern ; you scorn to wound the reputation of your neighbor ; you despise the poor, mean practice of calumny, which hurts, perhaps ruins, the name and character of a man, which it should be always his greatest care to preserve free from the least blemish.

You will be so kind, I hope, as to receive this poor acknowledgement of your great goodness, as a small token of my gratitude ; and whenever I experience the same civility and benevolent interposition again, pardon me if I should be tempted to make my private thanks public.

I am, sir,

Your much obliged servant.

LETTER 190.

A humorous letter from a friend to another on Wishes.

SIR,

I must agree with friend Horace, that, notwithstanding all our possessions, we fain would be having; if a man had the whole world, I dare say he would wish for the other, and if he had that, perhaps, like Alexander, he would cry for more. In short, we are never to be content; though our right hand be full, we would hold out the left; and should Providence overload both, we should doubtless put the gifts in our pockets, and empty our hands for future favors. However, I presume that I am an exception to this rule; Heaven has given me a wife; I never desire to have two! I have three children, and never wish to have more! My friends, too, are so numerous that with gratitude I confess that I have enough. In short, I expect that I am about as contented as we poor mortals are allowed to be.

I am, dear sir,

Yours, &c.

LETTER 191.

A Challenge.

SIR,

The epithets which you were pleased to bestow upon my late conduct, being, in my opinion, illiberal and impertinent, I demand that satisfaction which is due to injured honor; and, therefore, insist upon your meeting me tomorrow morning, with whatever friend you may

think proper, in order to settle this business according to the laws of honor. The gentleman who hands you this is authorized to make the necessary arrangements.

I am, sir,

Your humble servant.

LETTER 192.

The Answer.

SIR,

You are a young man without a family ; I have a wife and three children ; my life being dear to them is consequently dear to me ; nor do I think I could meet my audit with Christian fortitude, did I wilfully enter the road of death, and leave a widow and fatherless children to bewail my loss ! And for what ? Because a mere empty butterfly, as I must call you, thinks proper to fire a pistol or two ; if you wish me to meet you, please to provide for my wife and children, in case of danger, and I will then prove my valor and courage. As your fortune enables you to perform this, if you refuse, the cowardice is upon your side ; and you must accordingly expect to be publicly reproached, and forever despised by all honorable men, and particularly by

Your humble servant.

END OF THE LETTERS.

LAW FORMS, &c.

RECEIPTS.

A General Receipt.

Boston, April 13, 1823. Received from Thomas Joy one hundred dollars, in full of all demands.

SAMUEL BELL.

\$100

N. B. A general receipt will not discharge debts due on bonds, bills, and other instruments executed by sealing and delivering ; nor will it discharge negotiable notes, or inland bills.

Receipt for money received on Note.

Boston, June 6, 1822. Received from James Blair, by William Crossman, four hundred and ninety-five dollars, which is endorsed on his note dated May 4, 1826.

LEMUEL VOSE.

\$495

Receipt for money received on account.

Boston, December 2, 1826. Received from Andrew Fairservice, fifty dollars, on account.

RICHARD WHITE.

\$50

Receipt for money received for another.

Boston, May 2, 1827. Received from Thomas Watts,
one hundred and fifty dollars, for account of James Ray.

For James Ray,

\$150

JOHN SAVAGE.

PROMISSORY NOTES.

A Note on demand.

Boston, May 4, 1827. For value received, I promise
to pay Mr. Jonah Barrington, or order, one thousand dol-
lars, with interest, on demand.

RUFUS PERKINS.

\$1000

Attest, Stephen Hope.

N. B. A promissory note draws interest from the date
to the payment, unless otherwise expressed in the note.

A note or bill is not endorsable, and consequently not
negotiable, unless it is payable "*to order*," nor is it *valid*,
unless it expresses "*for value received*."

A Note by two persons.

Boston, Sept. 3, 1827. For value received, we jointly
and severally promise Mr. Aaron Foster, to pay him, or
order, one hundred dollars, in three months, with interest.

\$100

THOMAS SHIEL.

HENRY MAY.

Attest, John Bates.

A Note for borrowed money.

Boston, June 6, 1827. Borrowed and received of Lot
Poor, fifty dollars, which I promise to pay on demand.

JOHN SAMSON.

Foreign Bill of Exchange.

Gilders. Stivers.

1855 13 a 40 c. Amsterdam, Nov. 1, 1817.

Thirty days after sight, pay this my first bill of exchange, (my second and third of the same tenor and date not paid) to Thomas Russel, or order, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-five gilders thirteen stivers, exchange 40 c. per gilder, for value received, and place the same to account, per advice from **WILLIAM VORST.**

To Rufus Perkins, Boston.

Accepted, December 6, 1817.

RUFUS PERKINS.*Inland Bill of Exchange.*

§120 Norfolk, (Virginia,) July 28, 1817.

Ten days after sight, pay to Mr. Charles Lee, or order, one hundred and twenty dollars, for value received, and place it, without further advice, to the account of your humble servant, **HENRY LEE.**

To Thomas Russell, Boston.

Accepted, August 15, 1817.

THOMAS RUSSELL.

N. B. A bill of exchange is a written order for money, to be received in one place or country, for value paid in another. Their style varies according as one or more bills are drawn for the same sum; or according to the time of payment, as, at sight, so long after sight, at usance, or double usance, &c.

A Common Indenture to bind an Apprentice.

This indenture witnesseth, that A. B. of &c. hath put and placed, and by these presents doth put and bind out his son C. D. and the said C. D. doth hereby put, place and bind out himself, as an apprentice to R. P. to learn the art, trade or mystery of The said C. D. after the manner of an apprentice to dwell with and serve the said R. P. from the day of the date hereof, until the day of which will be in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and at which time the said apprentice, if he should be living, will be twenty one years of age: During all which time or term, the said apprentice his said master well and faithfully shall serve; his secrets keep, and his lawful commands every where at all times readily obey; he shall do no damage to his said master, nor willfully suffer any to be done by others; and if any to his knowledge be intended, he shall give his master seasonable notice thereof. He shall not waste the goods of his said master, nor lend them unlawfully to any; at cards, dice, or any other unlawful game he shall not play; fornication he shall not commit, nor matrimony contract, during the said term; taverns, ale-houses, or places of gaming, he shall not haunt or frequent: From the service of his said master he shall not absent himself; but in all things and at all times, he shall carry and behave himself as a good and faithful apprentice ought, during the whole time or term aforesaid.

And the said R. P. on his part, doth hereby promise, covenant and agree to teach and instruct the said apprentice, or cause him to be taught and instructed, in the art, trade or calling of a by the best way or means he can, and also to teach and instruct the said apprentice;

or cause him to be taught and instructed to read, write, and cypher as far as the rule of three, if the said apprentice be capable to learn ; and shall well and faithfully find and provide for the said apprentice good and sufficient meat, drink, clothing, lodging, and other necessities fit and convenient for such an apprentice during the term aforesaid, and at the expiration thereof shall give unto the said apprentice two suits of wearing apparel, one suitable for the Lord's day, and the other for working days.

In testimony whereof, the said parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals, the day of in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and (Seal)

Signed, sealed and delivered }
in presence of us }

(Seal)
(Seal)
(Seal)

Warrantee Deed.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That I, P. C. of Leomister, in the county of Worcester, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, gentleman, for and in consideration of one hundred and fifty dollars, and forty-five cents paid to me by S. P. of Ashby, in the county of Middlesex, and commonwealth of Massachusetts, yeoman, the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, sell and convey to the said S. P. his heirs, and assigns, a certain tract and parcel of land, bounded as follows, viz.

[*Here insert the bounds, together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging.*]

To have and to hold the same unto the said S. P. his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof for ever.

And I do covenant with the said S. P. his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said S. P. his heirs and assigns for ever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal,
this day of in the year of our Lord one
thousand eight hundred and

Signed, sealed and delivered }
in presence of

P. C. (Seal)

Quitclaim Deed.

Know all men by these presents, that I, A. B. of, &c. in consideration of the sum of to me paid by C. D. of, &c. the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have remitted, released and for ever quitclaimed, and do by these presents remiss, release, and for ever quitclaim unto the said C. D. his heirs and assigns for ever (*Here insert the premises.*) *To have and to hold* the same, together with all the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging, to him the said C. D. his heirs and assigns for ever.

In witness, &c.

Mortgage Deed.

Know all men by these presents, that I, A. B. of, &c. in consideration of the sum of paid to me by C. D. of, &c. the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, do hereby give, grant, bargain, sell and convey, unto the

said C. D. his heirs and assigns for ever (*Here insert the premises.*) To have and to hold the said granted and bargained premises with the privileges and appurtenances thereof, to the said C. D. his heirs and assigns, to his and their use and behoof for ever. And I the said A. B. for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, do covenant with the said C. D. his heirs and assigns, that I am lawfully seized in fee of the premises, that they are free of all incumbrances, that I have good right to sell and convey the same to the said C. D. to hold as aforesaid, and that I will warrant and defend the same to the said C. D. his heirs and assigns for ever, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons.

Provided nevertheless, That if I the said A. B. my heirs executors, or administrators, shall well and truly pay to the said C. D. his heirs, executors, administrators or assigns, the full and just sum of _____ on or before the day of _____ next, (or which will be in the year of our Lord _____) with lawful interest for the same until paid, then this deed [as also a certain bond (*or note, as the case may be*) bearing even date with these presents, given by me to the said C. D. conditioned to pay the same sum and interest at the time aforesaid] shall be void; otherwise shall remain in full force and virtue.

In witness whereof, &c.

Lease.

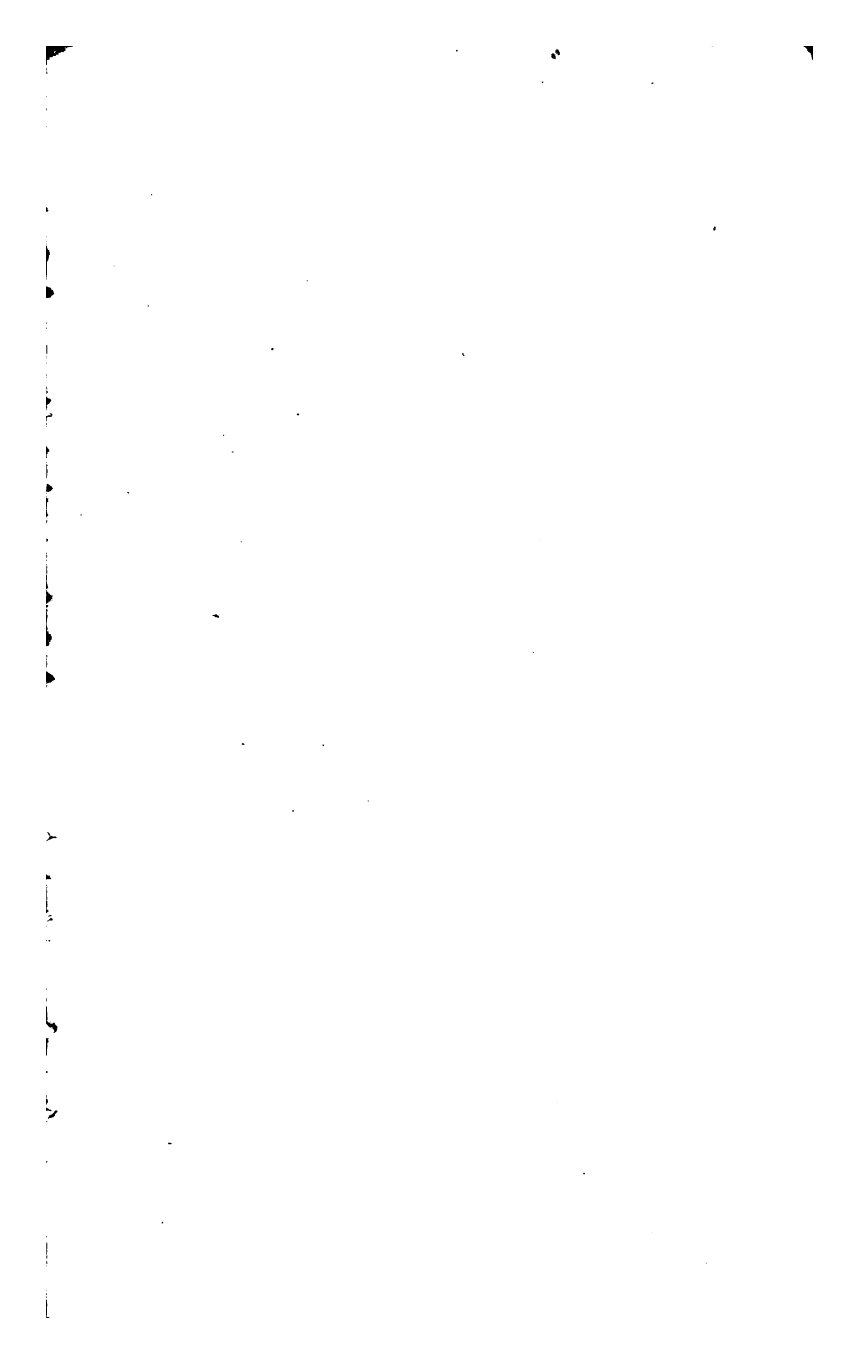
This INDENTURE, made _____ the
day of _____, in the year of our Lord one thousand
eight hundred and _____ *Witnesseth, That*

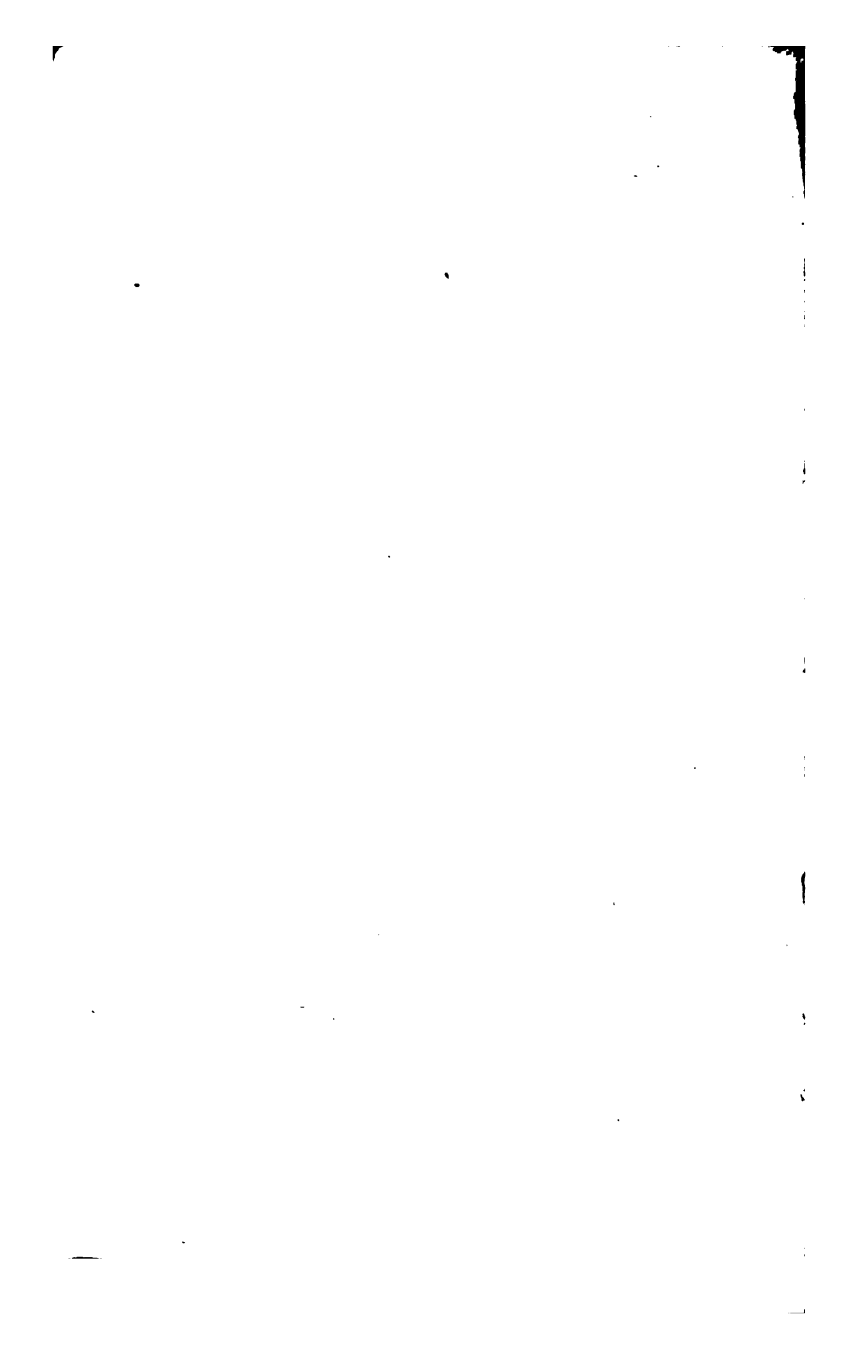
do hereby lease, demise, and let unto
(*Here describe the premises to be leased*)

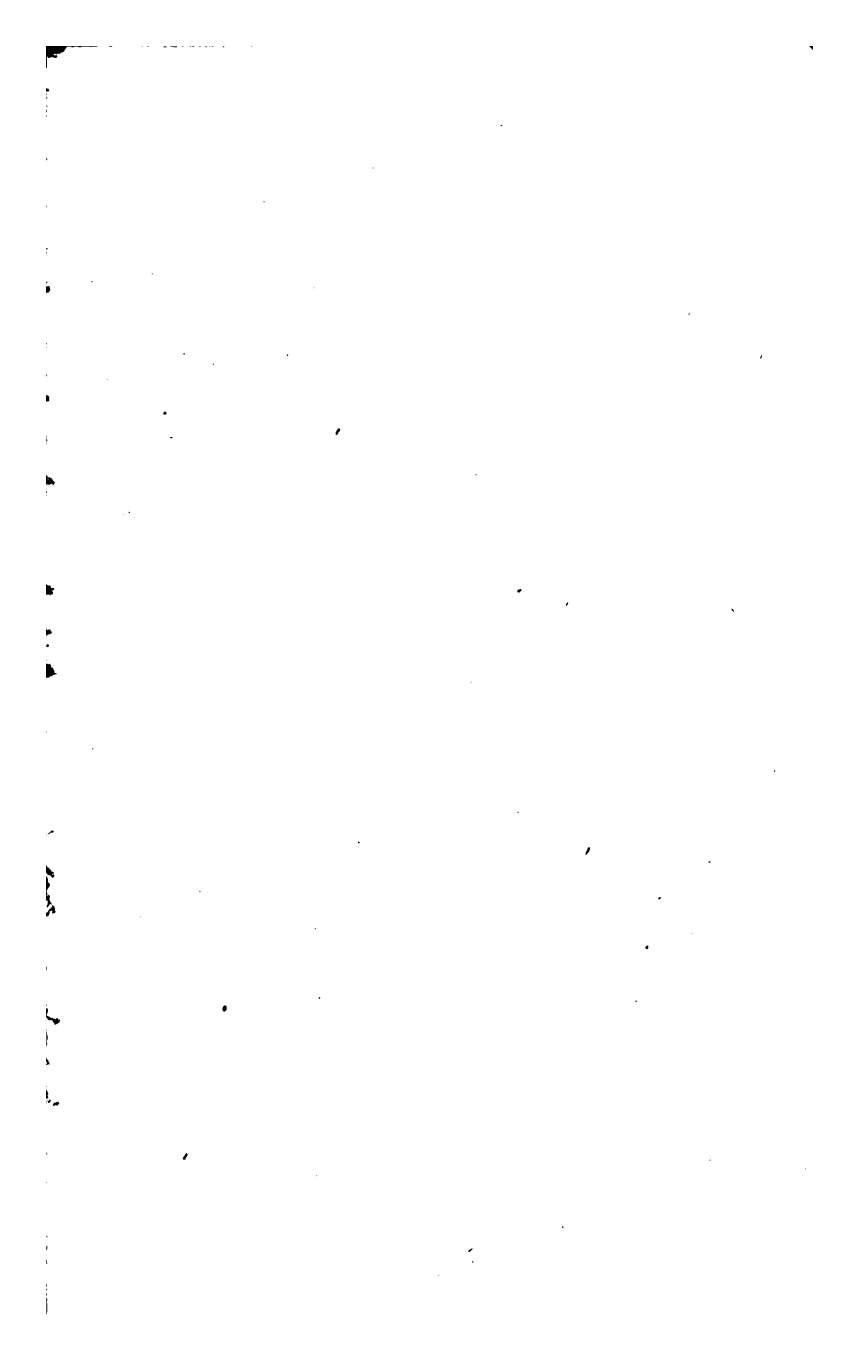
To hold for the term of from the
day of yielding and paying therefor the rent of

And the said Lessee do promise to pay
the said rent in and to quit and deliver
up the premises to the Lessor , or attorney, peacea-
bly and quietly, at the end of the term, in as good order
and condition, reasonable use and wearing thereof, fire,
and other unavoidable casualties excepted, as the same
now are, or may be put into, by the said Lessor , and to
pay the rent as above stated, and all taxes and duties levi-
ed, or to be levied thereon, during the term, and also the
rent and taxes as above stated, for such further time as
the Lessee may hold the same, and not make or suffer
any waste thereof: nor lease, nor underlet, nor permit
any other person or persons to occupy or improve the
same, nor make or suffer to be made, any alteration there-
in, but with the approbation of the Lessor thereunto in
writing, having been first obtained; and that the Lessor
may enter to view, and make improvements, and to expel
the Lessee , if he shall fail to pay the rent and taxes as
aforesaid, or make or suffer any strip or waste thereof.

THE END.

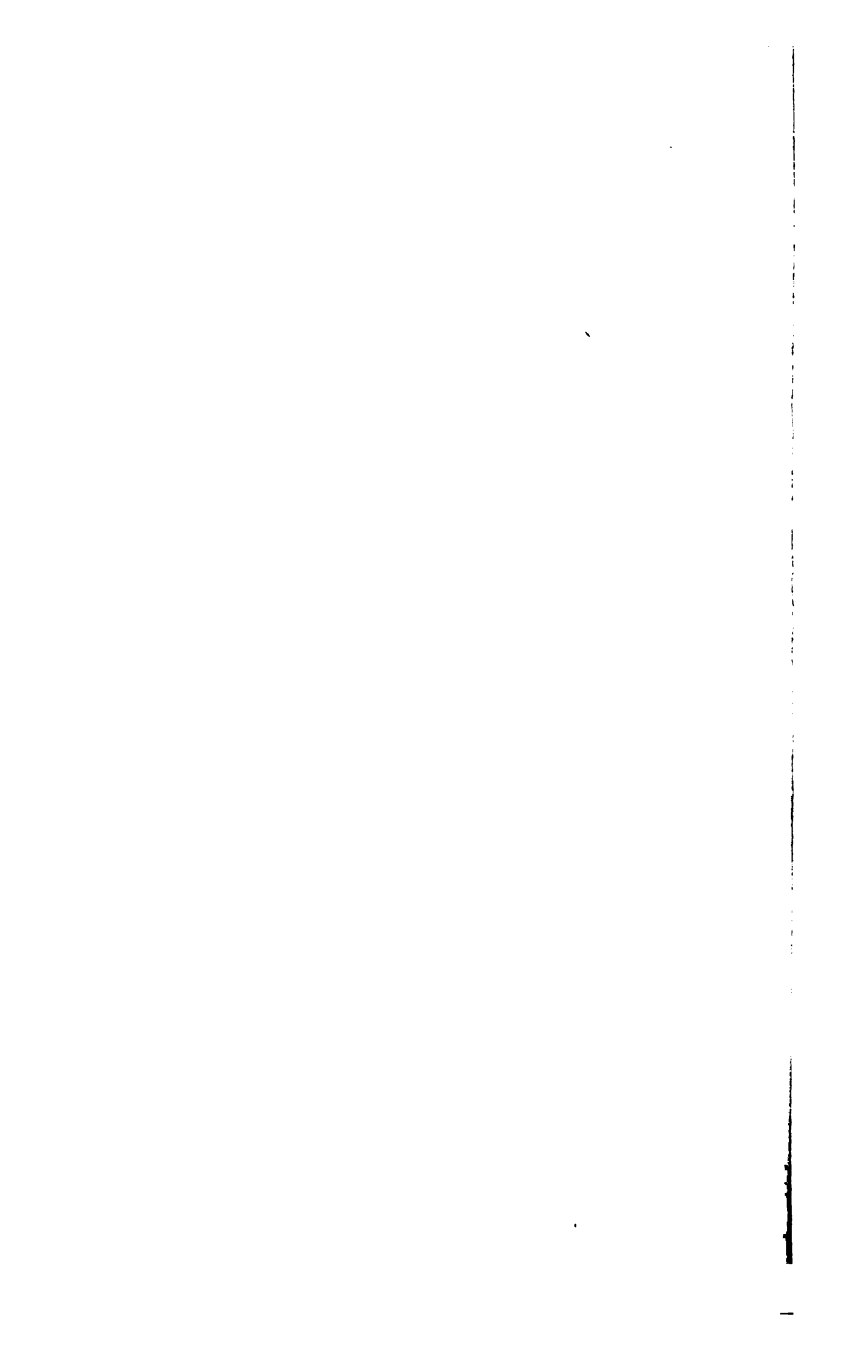




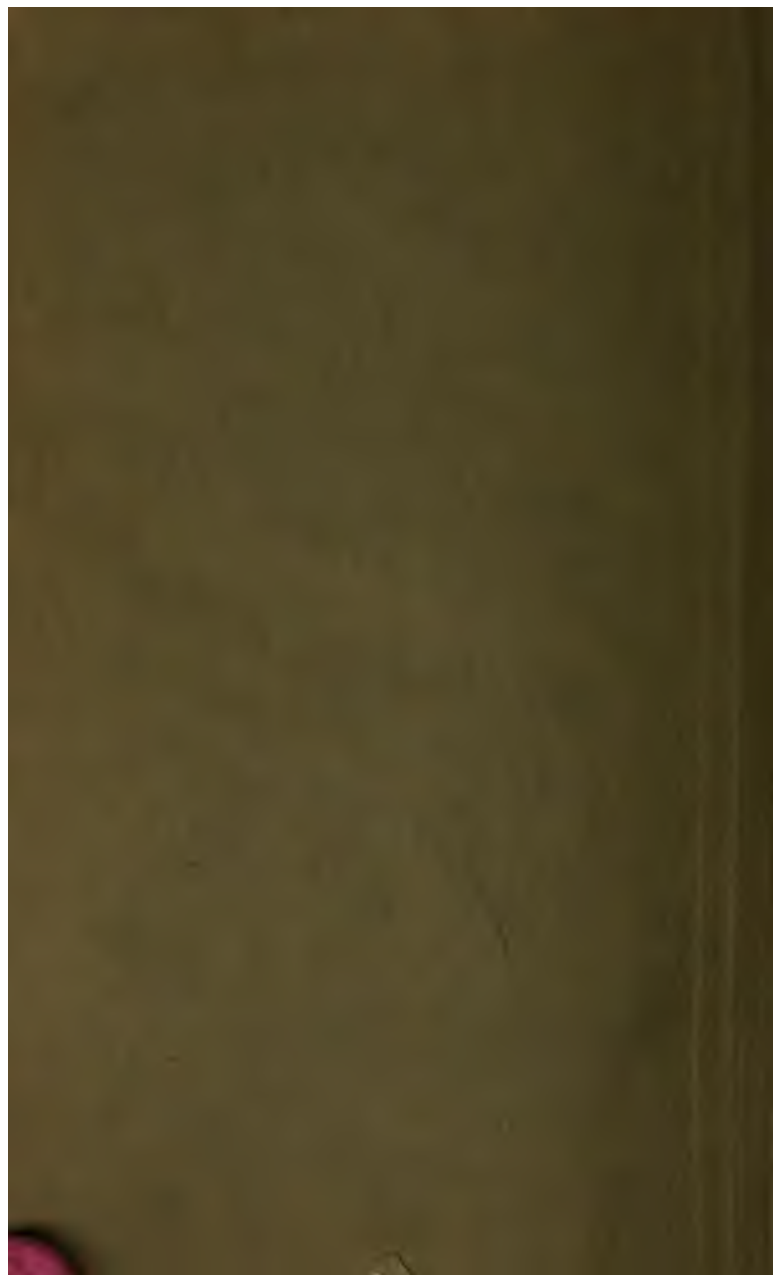


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